

INTERNATIONAL

Demo in Mongolia despite decree

BEIJING, April 9. (Agencies): Mongolian President Punsalmaa Ochiirbat has banned demonstrations that threaten state security or disrupt public tranquility, the official newspaper Unen said yesterday.

China's official Xinhua news agency, reporting from the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator, quoted Unen as saying the regulation came in the form of a presidential decree.

It appeared intended to head off protests by Mongolia's fledgling opposition parties during an extraordinary congress of the ruling communist party scheduled to consider political reforms beginning tomorrow.

But residents in the capital said by telephone that about 3,000 people massed in the city's central Sukhbaatar square despite the decree to protest against the government and demand faster democratic changes.

The regulation says Mongolian citizens can take part in demonstrations and rallies "aimed at developing and consolidating the state apparatus and in the interests of the working people," Xinhua said.

Applications for demonstrations must be submitted to local governments a week in advance.

The regulation bans demonstrations that "are against the state constitution, detrimental to friendship with other countries and to the unity of the Mongolian people, threatening state security or people's safety and disrupting the tranquility or the normal work of a government department," Xinhua said.

The country whose friend Mongolia's leaders prize is the Soviet Union. Mongolia's patron ever since it helped a small Mongol revolutionary army win independence from China in 1921.

New opposition groups have held repeated demonstrations in Ulan Bator's central square since late last year to demand democratic reform following the example of Eastern Europe.

In response, Mongolia's ruling communist party shuffled top party and government ranks in March and promised free elections, but the opposition groups said they did not trust the party and will continue to demonstrate.

At last month's annual session of the communist-dominated legislature, the great people's hural, many deputies denounced the demonstrations as disruptive and called for a law to regulate them.

People jubilant over democratic victory



King Birendra announced that he was lifting a 30-year-old ban on opposition political parties after meeting with opposition leaders. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nepal lifts ban on parties

KATMANDU, April 9. (UPI): More than 100,000 jubilant Nepalese poured into the streets of Katmandu today waving flags and shouting slogans in celebration of King Birendra's decision to allow multi-party democracy in the kingdom.

Many of the revelers apparently forgot the city was still under a curfew last night but authorities did not. Police opened fire in several areas, killing at least two people, hospital sources and witnesses said.

The curfew was lifted at dawn today and residents quickly filled the streets, many to celebrate their victory and others to go about business. The Hindu kingdom's shrines were filled with worshippers.

"We're all very happy that the partyless system has been removed," said Guna Midni Ranjit, 56, owner of the G.N. Cold Store in Katmandu. "Now things will be better because people will have political freedom—freedom to speak, to do anything."

The king announced his decision to lift a 29-year ban on political parties last night, following six weeks of often violent clashes between pro-democracy demonstrators and police that have left at least 50 dead.

Residents of Katmandu shouted from their rooftops and exploded firecrackers when they heard the news.

The celebrations intensified this morning when the 48-hour curfew was lifted and Nepalese could leave their houses.

"We feel very proud today," said Sarjit Lama, waving the red and white flag of the Nepali Congress Party. "We are free for the first time in 30 years."

Thousands of people waved flags of other once-banned parties as they walked or rode through the city streets.

Hundreds of people went to Bir hospital in the hopes of seeing the movement's ailing leader Ganesh Man Singh, 75, head of the Nepali Congress Party.

"For the last 30 years we've had to struggle for this day," Singh said, sitting on the edge of his hospital bed in crowded room 14. "Now the day has come."

Singh said the next step will be to organize a multi-party political system.

"To maintain it will be more difficult," he said.

Manmohan Adhikari, secretary general of Marxist-orientated Nepal Community Party called Birendra's announcement "a partial victory."

The constitution has to be made more democratic and the government needs to function in a responsible and democratic manner," he said at the hospital.

The pro-democracy movement was launched Feb 18 by the Nepali Congress Party and seven leftist parties. Since then the Nepalese kingdom of 19 million has been beset by widespread strikes, violent demonstrations and the forced closing of schools.

Hundreds of tourists joined the crowds, cheerfully letting Nepalese dash them with the red powder which Hindus use to celebrate auspicious occasions.

But hotel managers said many of their guests were still trying to leave. "We are looking at a very bleak situation for the next months, the next one month at least," one said.

DHAKA, April 9. (Reuters): President Hossain Mohammad Ershad today lifted bans on one daily and two weekly newspapers after an appeal from editors and journalists, Bangladesh's official BSS news agency said.

"President Ershad expressed hope (at a meeting with the editors and journalist union leaders) that the publications will practise responsible journalism," it added.

The government banned the Meilhat Daily last December, accusing it of inciting people to topple Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup.

Meilhat is owned by retired army colonel Syed Faruk Reehman, who helped lead a bloody coup in 1975 in which Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's first president, was assassinated with most members of his family.

Publication of the weekly Ashe Din Jai was halted last August after complaints it had ridiculed Islam.

Unrest in far western China

Official sources neither confirm nor deny

BEIJING, April 9. (AP): Ethnic disturbances have taken place recently in Muslim areas of China's far western border with the Soviet Union, a Western diplomat confirmed today.

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an official from the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region had acknowledged there was truth to reports of civil unrest coming out of the area.

The diplomat could provide no other details of the disturbances, which took place in the past few days around Kashgar, a bazaar city near China's arid border with the Soviet republics of Tadzhikistan and Kirghizia.

Officials of the Foreign Affairs Office in Urumqi, the

capital of Xinjiang, neither confirmed nor denied the disturbances, saying only that it was "not clear" when asked whether troops had been sent in to quell rioting.

An official of Xinjiang's government office in Beijing, asked if reports that Kashgar had been closed to foreigners were true, replied, "I don't know."

The China International Tourist Service claimed foreign tourists could still go to Kashgar, but said they would have to take an 1,100 km (700-mile) bus trip from Urumqi.

The Chinese government has barred all foreign journalists and diplomats from travelling

to Xinjiang since the outbreak of ethnic unrest in adjacent republics of the Soviet Union.

More than half Xinjiang's population of 14 million are from the Uygur, Hui and other Muslim groups with close ethnic ties to Soviet Muslims.

There were violent Muslim riots in Urumqi last May, and relations between local minorities and the Beijing government have long been tense.

The sparsely populated desert province also borders Tibet, another province where resentment against Chinese rule has erupted into violence in recent years.

Xinjiang officials in recent months have repeatedly warned

of separatists trying to bring trouble, Xinjiang's delegates to the concluded annual session of China's legislature called for increased vigilance against a small number of separatists who present the greatest threat to Xinjiang's stability.

The region's communist party chief, Song Hanbin, after a tour of Kashgar and other areas of southern Xinjiang in February that "checked place and work unit" problems.

He called for strengthened control over religious activities, saying the government must not allow religion to be used to promote separatist tendencies.

Manila hunts for coup leader Bibit

Military tightens security in stockades

MANILA, April 9. (Reuters): Philippine security forces spread out a dragnet across Manila today in a hunt for alleged coup leader Billy Bibit, and rebel soldiers called his prison escape a big boost to their efforts to oust President Corason Aquino.

The military tightened security in stockades, ran a headcount of prisoners and curtailed visits to prevent any further escape of rebel soldiers who nearly toppled Aquino in a coup attempt last December.

"We have sent our agents to different places. There are several areas

where we are concentrating in, and I hope we can get Bibit," said Brigadier-General Mariano Filart, chief of the paramilitary constabulary's capital command.

Filart appealed to the public for information on Bibit's whereabouts. "Let us help each other because for as long as the leadership of those who attempted the coup are out we will not have any peace," Filart said in a radio interview.

Filipino prisoners take advantage

Security lax in jail

MANILA, April 9. (AP): The knock at the door was supposed to be the delivery man bringing more beer to a party at the Manila City Jail. Instead, 15 rebel soldiers burst in and freed Lt Col Billy Bibit.

Yesterday's escape by Bibit, jailed on charges of coup attempts, was just the latest example of prisoners taking advantage of lax security to win freedom.

President Corason Aquino ordered a nationwide manhunt for Bibit. A presidential spokesman, Lourdes Sytanque, described Mrs. Aquino as "angry" and promised: "We will be seeing more forceful action in this case."

The Manila City Jail superintendent was relieved and three jailers, including a deputy warden, were arrested for negligence.

Military chief of staff Gen. Renato De Villa admitted recently that he was displeased with security at jail and stockades nationwide.

De Villa said it was difficult to enforce strict security because Filipino culture frowned on rules against conjugal visits, fraternisation between guards and inmates and liberal furloughs to attend funerals, graduations and other family occasions.

Police said Bibit escaped after guards, inmates and women visitors gathered and drank beer to celebrate

the birthday of the deputy warden, Maj. Manuel Roxas.

In November 1988, the chief of the communist rebel army, Romulo Kintanar, slipped away from a birthday celebration for a former jailer and assumed command of the New People's Army.

The fact that such an important prisoner was allowed out of his cell, albeit under guard, was surprising considering the lax security surrounding the escape six months earlier of former Lt Col. Gregorio Honasan.

Honasan had been held aboard a prison ship in Manila bay because he led the August 1987 attempt to topple Mrs. Aquino. Despite assurances Honasan had been neutralised, the charismatic officer convinced sailors to help him escape in April 1988.

He remains at large and is believed to have played a major role in the failed December coup, which claimed the lives of at least 113 people and left more than 600 injured.

Another alleged conspirator, Lt Col. Eduardo Manilano, slipped away in 1988 when he was allowed to leave a stockade to visit a dentist. Manilano was arrested a few months later when waterspots him dining with a well-known pornographic movie star.

Altaf begins hunger strike

Official shot in Sind

KARACHI, Pakistan, April 9. (Agencies): An opposition politician began a hunger strike yesterday to protest against political violence which has claimed 20 lives in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, in three days.

Altaf Hussain, leader of the Mohajir National Movement (MQM), began the fast at his home in Karachi, capital of Sind province, after the expiry of a deadline he had set for the arrest of the killers of 12 MQM members on Friday.

"We will go on hunger strike," hundreds of MQM activists chanted.

Earlier on Sunday a gunman shot and wounded a senior government official in the northern Sind town of Sukkur.

Mohammad Hashim Meimon, commissioner for the Sukkur administrative division, was shot as he worked in his office, a government statement said.

Police arrested the gunman. The motive for the attack was not immediately known.

Altaf said on Saturday he

would go on hunger strike if the authorities failed to arrest the killers of 12 MQM members by 7.00 pm (1400 GMT) yesterday.

"If the culprits are not arrested, then instead of bringing people on the streets I will sacrifice my own life for the Mohajirs," he said.

The MQM, which represents Muslim Mohajir immigrants from India and Pakistan Minister Benazir Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) blame each other for the violence.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in ethnic riots in Sind since 1986.

Meanwhile, a sniper killed a police officer on Feb 7, when at least 33 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in riots during an anti-government strike called by the MQM.

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, and surrounding Sind province have been wracked by ethnic violence for the past several years that has left hundreds dead.

Manila detains Cabardo

MANILA, April 9. (AP): Police arrested a man believed to be the deputy chief of staff of the communist rebel army today as he returned to the country from Europe, officials and state television reported.

Antonio Cabardo, alleged deputy chief of staff of the New People's Army, was taken into custody about noon (0400 GMT) at Ninoy Aquino international airport, said Col. Victor Tiango, operations chief of the capital command.

As deputy chief of staff, Cabardo is believed to be the second-ranking figure in the 20,000-member New People's Army, which has been waging a 21-year insurgency to establish a Marxist state.

Cabardo is also believed to be a member of the political bureau of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

The government television station reported that Cabardo came from Europe with a stopover in Hong Kong but did not say which European country he had visited.

The rebel chief of staff, Romulo Kintanar, escaped from prison in November 1988.

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- Salmiya Salem Al Mubarak St., close to Sultan Center, Opp. Fulfullet Americana.

Dhaka lifts journal ban

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Publication of the weekly Ashe Din Jai was halted last August after complaints it had ridiculed Islam.

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Shuttle Discovery ready to blast off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, April (UPI): At long last, the shuttle Discovery stood ready for blastoff tomorrow to launch the 1.5-billion Hubble space telescope, the most expensive satellite ever built and one expected to revolutionize humanity's view of the cosmos.

Running seven years behind schedule and some \$1 billion over budget, the railroad tank car-sized space telescope's batteries were fully charged and Discovery's 60-foot-long (18-m-long) cargo bay doors were closed over the giant instrument about 6:30 am.

It was a moment scientists have been waiting for years, a critical milestone for what many consider to be the most important scientific satellite ever built, a project first proposed in the 1940s and funded by Congress in 1977.

"I think the importance of this is very profound," NASA astrophysicist Charles Pellerin said. "I believe it's likely we will change the way we think about the universe and our role in it."

Countdown
Discovery's carefully scripted countdown began at 3 pm Saturday and NASA test director Michael Leinbach said yesterday work at launch pad 39B was on schedule for a liftoff at 8:47 am (1247 GMT) tomorrow.

With a decision by NASA managers Saturday to relax tough post-Challenger guidelines on the maximum allowable winds, air force meteorologists predicted a 90-per cent chance of acceptable weather at launch time tomorrow with conditions deteriorating somewhat later in the week.

At the controls for launch will be Commander Loren Shriver, 45, and co-pilot Charles Bolden, 43. Seated behind the pilots on Discovery's upper deck will be astronomer Steven Hawley, 38, and Bruce McCandless, 52, while Kathryn Sullivan, 38, will be seated alone on the ship's lower deck.

Discovery is scheduled to be launched into a record 380-mile-high (610-km-high) orbit — twice as high as shuttles usually fly — to minimize the braking effects of friction with the "tenuous reaches of the outer atmosphere that otherwise would cause the satellite to slowly fall back toward Earth."

Working high above the planet's turbulent atmosphere, the telescope and its near-perfect 94.5-inch-wide (240-cm-wide) mirror, capable of seeing the light of a single firefly 10,000 miles (16,000 km) away, will view the universe with 10 times the clarity of ground-based instruments.

Improvement
This 10-fold improvement in resolution, comparable to the difference between being able to read the letters in the second row of an eye chart vs. the fine print at the bottom, will allow astronomers to study light emitted from stars and galaxies that were created shortly after the universe's origin.

The most distant object ever clearly photographed from Earth is a mysterious high-energy "quasar" some 12 billion light years away, that is, the distance is light covered in 12 billion years traveling at 186,000 miles (299,399 km) per second.

The space telescope will be able to study light emitted up to 14 billion years ago, just a billion or so years after the bang thought to have created the universe. A major goal of the space telescope project is to find out how galaxies evolved during this period.

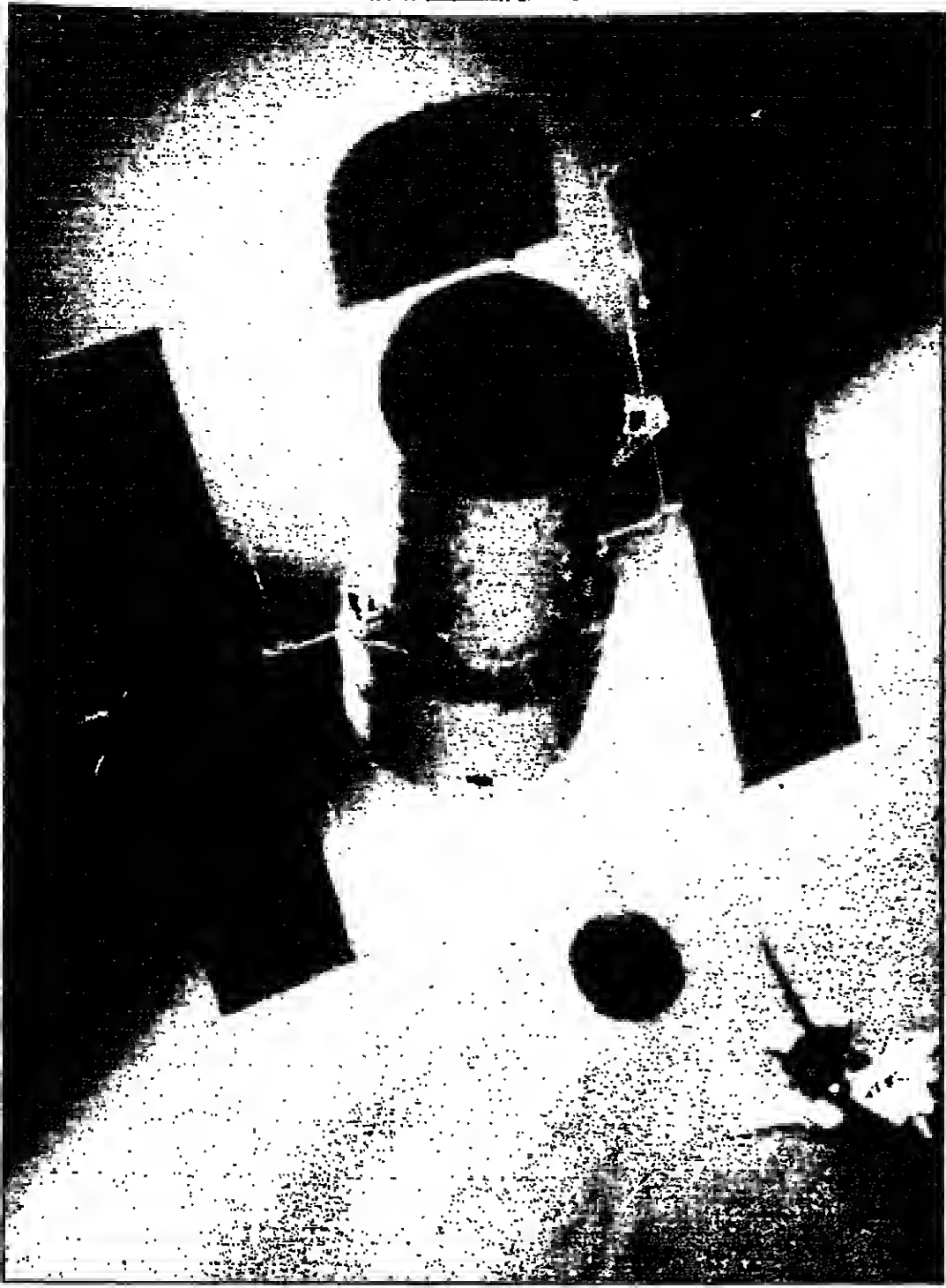
"We can see back to 10 billion light years as well as ground telescopes can see to 1 billion light years," NASA astronomer Edward Weiler said. "Because we can see with (better) resolution, at 10 billion light years we expect to see what galaxies looked like as they were being born, so to speak."

John Bahcall, president of the American Astronomical Society, said "if the telescope and the instruments function as specified... then the Hubble space telescope should provide at least partial answers to the fundamental questions (of astronomy)."

But the price tag is high.

Price tag
The telescope cost \$1.55 billion — almost as much as a space shuttle — largely because of a series of delays that pushed launch from 1983 to the present. Another \$600 million was spent for ground equipment, planning and testing and another \$200 million will be spent every year on data analysis and to fund research proposals.

If all goes well, Hawley, operating Discovery's 50-foot (15-m) robot arm, will release the 25,500-pound (12.75-ton) telescope into orbit around 2:10 pm Wednesday as the shuttle sails over the Pacific Ocean south of Mexico.



The space shuttle Discovery will be launched today to deploy the Hubble space telescope, shown in artist's drawing. The NASA and European Space Agency project will allow astronomers 15 years to view universe in finer detail than any ground observatory can. (Reuters wirephoto)

UK theatre awards

Davies wins

LONDON, April 9, (AP): A Rock-and-roll version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and a drama about four south London clerigymen were named the British theatre season's best musical and play at the Laurence Olivier Awards last night.

Boh Carlton's "Return to the Forbidden Planet" was the unexpected victor over the favourite, "Miss Saigon" in the musical category. But the latter, a lavish Broadway-bound musical about the Vietnam war, won the awards for outstanding musical actor (Jonathan Pryce) and actress (Lea Salonga).

David Hare's "Racing Demon," at the Royal National Theatre, was named best play. His London win contrasted with the Broadway reception last fall of his play "The Secret Rapture," which proved a flop.

"Racing Demon" also took the best actor prize for Oliver Ford Davies as the doubting priest, Lionel Espy. Davies' win surprised insiders who expected the prize to go to Ian McKellen for both "Othello" and "Bent."

The annual awards, named for the late actor Lord Olivier, were announced in a nationally tele-

vised, black-tie ceremony at the Dominion Theatre. They are London's closest equivalent to the Tony Awards on Broadway, although they don't carry nearly the same commercial clout. Nor are they held at the same time each year.

Irish performer Fiona Shaw was named actress of the year in a play for her performances in three productions — "As You Like It," "Electra," and "The Good Person of Sichuan." None of the plays is still playing.

Michael Bryant was named outstanding supporting performer, male or female, for his work in "Racing Demon," "The Voyage Inheritance," and "Hamlet," all at the Royal National Theatre.

His acceptance speech paid tribute to his "Hamlet" co-star, the late Ian Charleson, whom he called a "gallant gentleman." Charleson died of Aids in January.

The year's best director, Michael Bogdanov for "The Wars of the Roses," won over stiff competition from Trevor Nunn ("Othello") and Nicholas Hytner ("Miss Saigon").



Satanic cult gunman

TV picture shows an unidentified gunman who has been charged with murder in Southport, Australia. The man who was believed to be a member of a satanic cult, killed a 78-year-old woman during a shooting spree on Queensland's Gold Coast. (Reuters wirephoto)

Woman charged in axe-wielding attack goes on trial

MILWAUKEE, April 9, (AP): A woman who reportedly claims she is the mother of Jack the Ripper goes on trial today accused of plotting to kill a man with a hatchet in a ritual she believed would resurrect the British serial killer.

The 26-year-old man, who has not been identified, said in a complaint that he was lured to an apartment and attacked by an axe-wielding woman hiding in the shower. He said he needed 50 stitches to close a wound to his forehead.

Jury selection begins today in the trial of Deborah Kazuch, 26, who is accused of plotting the May 29 attack with two other Milwaukee women.

Catherine Lipsham, 23, and Ramona Barry, 27, pleaded guilty Friday to the same charge of attempted first-degree murder and agreed to testify against Ms. Kazuch.

The victim, who is also expected to testify, said he was lured to a Milwaukee apartment by Ms. Barry.

He said he went to the bathroom, heard

UK rich getting richer: survey

LONDON, April 9, (Kuma): Britain's rich are getting richer, according to a new survey published here yesterday.

The annual survey, conducted for the Sunday Times magazine, found that the 200 wealthiest people in the UK have amassed 10 billion pounds more during the past year.

Remains

They are now worth over 48 billion pounds — equal to 9.4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, the survey showed.

Not surprisingly, the Queen remains Britain's wealthiest person with a fortune of 6.7 billion pounds, it was revealed.

She increased her wealth by 28 per cent last year, largely through a sharp rise in the value of royal art treasures and her share portfolio, the survey noted.

Exclusive

And "old money" continues to dominate, with some 104 out of the 200 listed acquiring their riches through inheritance.

The Duke of Westminster is Britain's second richest person, largely as a result of owning 300 acres in Mayfair, London's most exclusive district, it was pointed out.

Among the new names entering the list of those owning over 50 million pounds are several Indian-born millionaires who live and work in London.

Noted

They head a growing gang of Asian millionaires making their presence felt in the British economy, the magazine noted.

British pop stars and impresarios also figure strongly in the survey, with former Beatle Paul McCartney now worth 350 million pounds and Rolling Stone Mick Jagger worth 75 million pounds.

LOS ANGELES: Sandra Locke says her cop thriller "Invasion" owes nothing to her longtime companion Clint Eastwood, but "it's a battle to get out from under Clint's shadow."

The film, which Miss Locke directed, stars Theresa Russell as a tough cop on the edge of burnout, a theme not unknown in Eastwood's work. But "this is not like any movie he ever did," Miss Locke said in a recent interview.

The shadow cast by the tough guy of the Dirty Harry movies darkens her head as well as her artistic life, Miss Locke said.

Miss Locke, 42, is waging a court battle for a share of Eastwood's wealth and two of the homes the two shared during 11 years together. Eastwood filed his own lawsuit claiming that Miss Locke was married to another man and thus is not entitled to a settlement. (AP)

FORT WORTH, Texas: After frying chicken at a fast-food restaurant for several months, Soviet ballet dancer Mikhail Gaidamakin is ready for his debut with the Fort Worth Ballet.

Gaidamakin, 34, defected from the Kirov Ballet during a New York visit last July and moved to Dallas, where he lived with his friend Andrei Ustiner, a defector from the Moscow ballet in 1987.

Gaidamakin worked at Gandy's, a chicken joint, before signing with the Fort Worth Ballet in March. (AP)

TEMPE, Arizona: Former Beatle Paul McCartney, playing on the 22nd anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., criticized Arizona for not having a state holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader.

The Arizona legislature passed a bill in September for a King Day, but opponents gathered enough signatures to stall the holiday until after a referendum in November.

"I thought that was really dumb," McCartney told a news conference. "That was a very good opportunity to make a nation proud of one man. He was a great guy. It looked a bit silly when one state held out against it."

Arizona is one of only three states still without an official King holiday. The others are New Hampshire and Montana. (AP)

ROCK HILL, South Carolina: Mood music, subliminal messages and other secret devices may be deployed to get the best out of the slinky contestants in the Come See Me Mayer's frog jump.

Twelve frog jumpers have been imported from Brownsville in Marlboro County for the contest. In the main contest, which is open to the public, the frogs must be of the garden variety.

Amphibian hostess Joyce Moss picked up the box of imported frogs at the post office.

"They're really, Ooooh, they're nasty. Put them back," she yelled. Ms. Moss followed instructions on the box: Do not refrigerate, keep away from heat. (AP)

AUSTIN, Texas: North America's largest urban bat colony, which hangs under Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, is to get official recognition this month as a tourist attraction.

The colony swells in midsummer to about 750,000 Mexican free-tailed bats who live in 16-inch (40-cm)-diameter-deep grooves running the length of the bridge over Town Lake.

The city's park and recreation department and bat conservation organization plan to open a kiosk with educational display panels on the north shore of the lake on April 20. The nocturnal mammals have long drawn thousands of tourists each year.

DANBURY, Connecticut: Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka has been admitted to Danbury Hospital for treatment of diverticulitis, a hospital spokesman said.

Spokesman John Morgan said Sedaka, 51, is considering surgery to alleviate the intestinal inflammation.

Sedaka, a singer-composer who first reached fame in the 1950s, has written and recorded dozens of popular songs including "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," "Calendar Girl" and "Stupid Cupid." (AP)

ROME: Elderly designer Princess Irene Galitzina, who created the "Palazzo Pajama" style of evening wear in the 1960s, has been jailed for tax evasion, her lawyer said.

The 72-year-old Russian-born princess was surprised by police who arrived at her Rome apartment to bring her to jail, said lawyer Marcello Barbieri.

The police said she had been convicted of tax evasion in a November 1988 trial and sentenced to six months in prison, Barbieri said. However, the princess said she had never been notified she was even charged, the lawyer said.

"We don't know exactly how it happened," the lawyer said in a telephone interview. But he said her office might have mislaid the notice. Galitzina in newspaper interviews has said she designed outfits for such celebrities as Jacqueline Onassis, Liz Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Greta Garbo and the former Queen Anne-Marie of Greece. She won fame for the "Palazzo Pajama," elegant pants worn at formal evening functions. (AP)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Aids victim dies

White succumbs to respiratory illness

INDIANAPOLIS, April 9, (UPI): Ryan White, the teenager forced to simultaneously fight Aids, misconceptions about its victims and bitter efforts to keep him out of public school, died yesterday of a respiratory illness related to the disease.

Singer Elton John kept a constant vigil with White's family by his hospital bed last week, posting some of the thousands of cards and letters that poured in as news of White's deteriorating condition spread. Football player Howie Long, who appeared with White at Aids benefits, also visited White at Riley Hospital.

Singer Michael Jackson, who gave White a car for his 16th birthday, called, along with singers John Mellencamp, Johnny Cash, the Statler Brothers and football player Joe Montana. Singer Lionel Richie sent a fax offering his support.

Many of the celebrities were in Indianapolis for Saturday's Farm Aid IV concert to aid struggling family farms. John, making an unscheduled appearance at the concert, introduced the song "Candle In the Wind" by saying: "This one's for Ryan."

President George Bush, who was in Indianapolis last Tuesday, had dedicated a tree to White at a planting ceremony.

"Ryan helped us all understand the truth about Aids," Bush said. "He's shown all of us the strength of the human heart."

White, 18, entered the hospital March 29 and was placed on a life-support ventilating machine soon afterward. Dr. Martin Kleiman, who had treated White since he contracted acquired immune deficiency syndrome in December 1984, said the boy was under heavy sedation and felt no pain.

White had been in and out of Riley hospital for several months because of a chronic infection, Kleiman said.

A hemophiliac, White contracted Aids in 1984 when he received a tainted blood-clotting agent during a transfusion. White, then 13, was one of the first American youngsters diagnosed as having Aids at a time when the disease and its methods of transmission were widely unknown and misunderstood.

Parents and administrators fought efforts by White to enter the seventh grade at Western Middle School in Russiaville, Indiana, forcing him to continue his education at home in the fall of 1985 by a computer-telephone hook up.

White's year-long court fight to return to school and his unflinching personal courage in the face both of his illness and the reaction of others received national attention.

White returned to school for one day in February 1986 and was so excited, his mother said, that he picked out his clothes a day early and couldn't sleep the night before. But he had to suffer indignities that included a community "yard sale" held to raise money for the legal fight to keep him out of class and the absence of nearly half the school on that first day back.

In April, a court cleared White's return to class permanently and he finished the year without incident.



Ryan White, who became a hero through his fight against Aids and the fear it engenders, died on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hostile feelings subsided in Russiaville, but the Whites nevertheless moved south to Cicero, Indiana, about 25 miles (40 km) north of Indianapolis, in 1987. Students at Hamilton Heights High School, who had been educated about Aids before White's arrival, welcomed him with open arms.

White, then 16, said his only Christmas wish in 1987 was that others afflicted with the deadly human immunodeficiency virus receive the same treatment.

"I hope that Aids victims are not discriminated (against) any more," White told reporters.

French discovers Aids antibody

Work in early stages

MARSEILLE, France, April 9, (UPI): A leading French medical researcher, cautioning that his work still is in early stages, said yesterday he has discovered an antibody that ultimately could help prevent healthy Aids carriers who have tested seropositive from developing the disease.

The antibody, baptized "Anti-Beta 2 Microglobulin," was discovered by a team at the state-run Institute for Science and Medical Research (Inserm) in the southern French city of Marseille, according to its leader, Prof. Jean-Claude Chermann.

Preliminary results of laboratory work, published in the Journal of Virology's April edition, suggest the antibody could prevent the immune deficiency syndrome virus reproducing itself in lymphocytes, Chermann was quoted as saying in a statement printed in French newspapers yesterday.

"We have made an Anti-Beta 2 Microglobulin antibody that launches an inter-cellular signal that blocks the virus," said Chermann, a

former member of the Pasteur Institute team that pioneered identification of the Aids virus.

"For the moment, we are doing a very fundamental job in order to know better and better what happens in the interactions between the virus and the cell that it is going to kill."

"If one knows well these interactions at different levels one can combat them better."

However, Chermann said it was premature to speak of hope for healthy Aids carriers from his initial work.

"With these hyper-complex interactions and so very sophisticated mechanisms, a grain of sand can overturn everything."

"The fact of placing an antibody (Anti-Beta 2 Microglobulin), pressing on the signal of the Beta-2, launches something in the cell that blocks the virus," Chermann said.

"We have demonstrated that there is a new mechanism, that is to say something that intervenes in the cell, before it infects it and at the moment when it infects it."

Plane crash filmed live by Italians

ANGUILLARA, Italy, April 9, (UPI): A pilot and passenger died yesterday and three persons on the ground suffered slight burns when a small Cessna airplane, apparently attempting to perform impromptu acrobatic stunts, crashed just near a group of students gathered for the filming of a television show.

A crew from Italy's state-run third channel videotaped the crash as it happened. Edited clips of the accident, which occurred near the shores of lake Bracciano 30 km north of Rome, were shown on news programmes.

Pilot identified the dead as pilot Alessandro Maiolo, 28, and Fulvio di Nacci, 27. The injured were identified as Pietro Meccoli, Guido Tomassucci, 23, and Gorizio Rossi, 35.

The accident occurred during the filming of three small wooden-winged airplanes — similar to deltaplanes — which were embarking on an aerial survey of Italian coastal pollution.

Fontana Hotel fire toll rises to six

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, April 9, (AP): Searchers using dogs and heavy equipment found two more bodies and looked for others yesterday in the charred debris of the Fontana Hotel.

The death toll from the fast-moving fire that swept the 39-year-old hotel Friday rose to six with the two discoveries, officials said.

Eight tenants were still unaccounted for. More than a score of searchers began their Sunday search at the top and along the sides of blackened rubble left as the fire gutted the building.

"Our main concern now is to get the bodies out,

but safely so that we don't risk the teams," said police detective Jim Hyde, a spokesman for the search effort.

Four bodies were found soon after the fire, and the fifth yesterday in some debris and the sixth at the rear of the building.

The Fontana was a seasonal or year-round home for about 100 people, including many elderly retirees. Many groped down dark, smoky hallways or jumped out of their windows to flee the fast-moving fire.

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INTERNATIONAL

Poindexter may have to testify again

WASHINGTON, April 9, (AP): John Poindexter may have to testify again after his June sentencing on Iran-Contra convictions, sources say, at the request of prosecutors trying to write their final report on the Reagan era scandal.

The sources said their investigation is far from finished in the arms-for-hostages affair that was called the worst US scandal since Richard Nixon resigned over Watergate in 1974.

Both Poindexter and former National Security Council staff deputy Oliver North might be compelled under a grant of immunity from prosecution to testify before a special panel assembled to review evidence, the sources said.

While such appearances before a so-called grand jury might provide missing links to the cover-up and help prosecutors close the books on the more than 3-1/2-year-old scandal, new indictments would be unlikely, they added.

That was the consensus drawn from a series of interviews with sources in and out of government in the wake of Poindexter's conviction Saturday on conspiracy, obstruction and lying to Congress.

These sources, who discussed the cause with the Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said Poindexter's weekend convictions are significant because they provide a focus for the next, and possibly final, phase of the probe into the Iran-Contra affair that tainted the final years of Ronald Reagan's presidency.

The conspiracy conviction was the first courtroom confirmation that Poindexter, North, late-CIA director William Casey, National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and others worked illegally together.

The conspirators' goals, the investigators have said, were to conceal from Congress

evidence of the diversion of Iran arms sale money to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, the US role in a Hawk missile shipment to Iran and North's military support for Contras during a time when direct or indirect US aid was banned.

Iran-Contra prosecutor Dan Webb referred questions to Walsh. Mary Belcher, a spokeswoman for the Iran-Contra prosecutor's office, said Walsh would not comment on matters which may or may not

pertain to grand juries. Nevertheless, North, Poindexter, and possibly former CIA station chief Joseph Fernandez, may be compelled to give grand jury testimony about the scandal, the sources said.

Getting immunity for North would give Iran-Contra prosecutors their first opportunity to conduct a wide-ranging interrogation of the former Marine officer outside the constraints imposed by a courtroom trial.

Argentine minister in UK for talks

Hope to improve ties

LONDON, April 9, (AP): Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo of Argentina arrived in London yesterday, the most senior representative of his government to visit Britain since the two countries fought a war over the Falkland Islands in 1982.

Cavallo flew into Heathrow airport for talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and a lunch with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and said he hoped the meetings would help improve relations.

"We have now normal diplomatic relations between Britain and Argentina so we will go over all of the bilateral questions," he told reporters.

"We hope we will reach an agreement on reciprocal elimination of visas between the two countries ... that is very important for the contacts between the two countries for facilitating trips, visits and so on," he said.

"We will also begin negotiating a bilateral agreement on guarantees and protection for investment for one country or the other country. Also we will try to discuss what could be the agenda and timetable for the working group on fisheries in the south Atlantic."

After preliminary talks in New York last year, Britain and Argentina agreed in Madrid in February to restore diplomatic relations severed when Argentina invaded the south Atlantic islands in June 1982.

Britain sent a naval task force and recaptured the islands after a 74-day war in which nearly 1,000 troops died.

The agreement does not touch on the two countries' conflicting claims to sovereignty over the archipelago which Argentina calls the Malvinas.

Fujimori rejects deal with Llosa

LIMA, April 9, (UPI): Independent presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori has rejected any deal with novelist-politician Mario Vargas Llosa that would lead to the cancellation of a second-round election between the two political newcomers.

Fujimori, an agricultural engineer of Japanese descent, and Vargas Llosa appeared to a finish in a virtual dead heat in national elections yesterday, according to projections from Peruvian news media based on selected ballot results.

Fujimori, whose campaign peaked in the final two weeks, won 30.2 per cent of the vote compared to 29.8 per cent garnered by Vargas Llosa, according to Radio Programas. Vargas Llosa, an internationally known novelist, was ahead 29 per cent to 27.7 per cent in a projection made by Panamericano television.

Vargas Llosa, whose hopes for a first-round victory were dashed, immediately called for talks to avoid a second vote tentatively set for June 3. The runoff election will pick a successor to unpopular President Alan Garcia, whose term has been beset by runaway inflation and daily attacks by communist guerrillas.

"I believe that we can arrive at a formula to avoid a second round," Vargas Llosa said, pointing to Peru's grave economic crisis and a leadership vacuum that could result from the uncertainty of another round of campaigning.

But Fujimori, who was virtually unknown two months ago, said he was not interested in reaching an agreement.

"It's important to go to a second round and clarify some political points," said Fujimori, who ran a vague campaign with few specifics on his plan for pulling Peru out of its crisis.

"We are not going to make any pacts," he said, also rejecting agreements with leftist parties that would lead to their support.

Luis Alva Castro, the candidate of Garcia's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, was in third place with 17 per cent to 21 per cent of the vote, according to the projections. Official results were not expected for several weeks.

Projections showed Henry Pease of the Communist United Left with about six per cent of the vote and Alfonso Barrantes Lingan of the Socialist left with four per cent.

Four minor candidates split about two per cent of the vote and some 11 per cent of the ballots were left blank or annulled, Radio Programas said.

Projections also indicated neither Fujimori nor Vargas Llosa could count on having a majority of their party members in congress.

Election day was relatively quiet even though the communist Shining Path guerrillas had called for a boycott and threatened to disrupt the election.

There were no reports of major incidents in Lima. But the armed forces said 50 guerrillas armed with knives, rocks and sticks entered a village in the Ayacucho region and killed 17 residents, including women and children. No motive was given for the attack.

Vargas Llosa is the author of such novels as "The Green House," "The City and the Dogs," and "The War at the End of the World." Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, capitalized as an independent on Peruvian's disenchantment with politicians, fears over Vargas Llosa's plan of economic "shock" to contain inflation and voters' admiration of Japan, according to pollsters.



Fujimori casts his vote accompanied by his wife Susan on April 8. (Reuter wirephoto)



Fujimori (left) embraces Llosa during a press conference on April 8. (Reuter wirephoto)



Papandreou accepts a kiss from his wife, former air hostess, Dimitri Liani on April 8. (Reuter wirephoto)



Mitsotakis shown sceptical during a news conference yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Greek NDP one short of poll win

Third election in 10 months; 'suicidal situation'

ATHENS, April 9, (Reuter): Greece's Conservative Party was one seat short of an absolute majority in Parliament after the third general election in 10 months yesterday, and a year-long political crisis looked likely to deepen.

The Conservative New Democracy Party was given 150 seats in the 300-seat Parliament by the Interior Ministry earlier this morning with more than 98 per cent of the vote counted.

The Socialist Pasok Party had 124 seats, a communist-led alliance 19, and smaller parties and independents seven seats.

Conservative Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis called the result "suicidal situation" for the nation.

But he said he was confident he would find enough support in parliament to form a government.

It would be the first government dominated by New Democracy since 1981, and would be committed to sweeping economic changes to deal with the country's severe economic crisis.

Mitsotakis stressed to reporters that the final result was not in, and he still hoped to win another seat for an absolute

Poll row Father arrested

IRAKLION, Crete, April 9, (Reuter): A Greek father on the island of Crete was temporarily arrested for not allowing his wife and his son to vote in Greece's general elections on yesterday, police said.

They said Gerasimos Apostolakis hid the identity cards of his wife Eleni and his son Maoulis, making it impossible for them to cast their ballots.

majority. But political commentators held out little hope.

Without an absolute majority, Mitsotakis, 71, would have to look to the seven independents for support. They include a Muslim, an ecologist, a centrist and four hard-left deputies.

President Christos Sartzetakis must decide after the Interior Ministry, probably later on,

whether to give Mitsotakis a mandate to try to form a workable government.

"I have no doubt that he will ask me to form a government," he said. "But if he doesn't I'm not going to stage a coup."

If the inconclusive result is confirmed by the final count, it would be the third election in 10 months on which no party has won an absolute majority in Parliament.

If Mitsotakis fails to find the support for a New Democracy government, or at least persuade some independents to abstain to give him a working majority, talks will open on a coalition. Failing that, new elections will be called.

With 98.2 per cent of the vote counted, New Democracy had 47 per cent, the Socialist Pasok Party 38.6, the communist-led alliance 10.2. The smaller parties made up the balance.

Greece has been ruled by weak coalitions since June, when the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) was driven from office in a crushing election defeat after a series of scandals.

Former Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, 71, who ruled from 1981 until his June defeat, told reporters that

the country should now be run by a broad-based government. He did not elaborate.

After the June vote New Democracy and the communists teamed up to send Papandreou to trial on charges of complicity in a \$200-million bank embezzlement scandal and illegal phone-tapping. The trials are pending.

Despite the charges, Mitsotakis failed to win another vote in November and joined an all-party coalition government with the communists and Pasok, but without Papandreou personally.

The coalition was formed to try to deal with an economic crisis, marked by big budget deficits, now more than 22 per cent of the gross domestic product, and rising inflation, which at 16.5 per cent in the European Community's highest.

Mitsotakis withdrew his support from the government and, in effect, forced yesterday election, convinced that his message of impending economic collapse would rally voters.

Some 8 million people were eligible to cast their vote in 16,584 polling stations, but final figures for the turnout were not immediately available.

Bogota party official killed

BOGOTA, April 9, (AP): Gunmen shot and killed Jose Humberto Hernandez Rodriguez, an alternate Congressman of the ruling Liberal Party, in an attack yesterday, police said.

Hernandez Rodriguez died on the scene of the shooting in Bogota, the authorities said. Police said they knew of no immediate motive for the killing and that the attackers escaped.

In other developments a gold-plated motorcycle has been seized by police as they continue rounding up the illicit wealth of a Medellin cartel leader killed last year.

Police shot and killed drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha in a Dec 15 gunfight on Colombia's northern coast.

The motorcycle, coated with 18 carat gold, was seized in one of 15 raids Saturday in Rodriguez Gacha's hometown of Pacho, 50 miles (80 kilometres) north of the capital, police said yesterday. They said Japanese-made bike was used by Rodriguez Gacha's son, Freddy, who was killed with his father.

Since the government intensified a campaign against traffickers last August, authorities have seized \$42 million worth of gold, silver and cash belonging to Rodriguez Gacha.

Authorities have also found diamond encrusted jewellery, gold-plated pistols, cars, planes and other goods worth hundreds of millions of dollars on the trafficker's ranches and estates.

Police estimate that the seized goods represent only a fraction of the wealth accumulated in less than ten years by Rodriguez Gacha as he smuggled tons of cocaine to the United States.

With a personal fortune exceeding \$3 billion, Rodriguez Gacha was considered the richest man in Colombia after Pablo Escobar, the alleged top drug lord. Police are still searching for Escobar.

Colombia's multi-billion-dollar illegal cocaine trade has had few positive benefits for the local economy, according to a report by a Central Bank economist.

Hernando Jose Gomez, an economist at the Bank of the Republic, said the country's powerful cocaine barons earned \$14.2 billion between 1981 and 1988, for a yearly average of \$1.8 billion.

But he said less than half of the money — \$6.8 billion — had been brought back to Colombia and little of that had been invested in productive activities.

"The biggest part of the resources generated by illicit substances went to financing capital flight and contraband," the report said.

It added that drug traffickers' biggest financial influence has been felt in housing and cattle ranching.

The study fuels an intense debate in Colombia on the impact illegal drug dealing has had on the economy, one of the strongest in Latin America.

Cuba: A senior Cuban official said that operation of Cuba's first nuclear reactor, being built by Soviets at a site about 230 miles (370 km) south of Miami, has been delayed by two to three years.

"Our nuclear programme is one hundred per cent for peaceful energy uses. We do not have nuclear arms," Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi said in an interview over the weekend.

"The operation of first nuclear reactor, originally scheduled to go critical for testing by the end of the 1980s, was postponed to go critical for testing by the end of the 1990s and has been postponed until the end of 1990 and has been postponed again."

Cuban officials and diplomats say that if everything goes well and the Soviet Union — beset by its own economic and nuclear problems — continues to co-operate, Cuba's first reactor may go critical for testing at the end of 1992 at the earliest.

Fujimori, Japanese 'tidal wave' stirs up Peruvian polls with his surge in popularity

LIMA, April 9, (Reuter): Dubbed "Tsunami" — tidal wave in Japanese — by the local media, Alberto Fujimori has stirred up Peru's presidential campaign with his unexpected surge in popularity.

The studious-looking former university rector with no experience in politics has made a last-minute assault on opinion polls on the back of voter disaffection with traditional politicians.

The son of Japanese immigrants is now just a few points behind the frontrunner, world renowned novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, who leads a centre-right coalition. Pollsters say Fujimori could pull off a stunning coup, sailing into the run-offs next month and even beating Vargas Llosa.

Born in Lima on Peru's most important national holiday, July 28, the day the country won independence from Spain in 1821, Fujimori is the most prominent member of Peru's small but flourishing Japanese community.

His parents, originally from the town of Kumamoto, emigrated to Peru about 60 years ago.

A brilliant student, he became an agronomist and later rector of Peru's farming university.

Bespectacled, quiet and serious, it is first hard to see how Fujimori caught the imagination of the poor Peruvians who pollsters say make up most of his backing.

But behind the reserved exterior, people who know him say there is a will of steel.

His wife, irrigation expert Susana Higashi de Fujimori, said in a recent interview: "When my husband sets out to achieve something, in 98 per cent of cases he does."

Fujimori began his campaign a year ago after deciding that traditional politicians were not offering a solution to Peru's pressing social and economic problems.

His only claim to national fame was a stint from 1985 to 1987 as presenter of a cultural talk show on state television.

But with typical determination, he began his low budget campaign a year ago by hitching a small stand to the back

of his tractor and setting out, first in Lima and then in the surrounding countryside, to speak to the people.

His natural style and the absence of the bodyguards other candidates have used to keep the public at arm's length has impressed people.

His message, that before any economic shock (africanus) is applied in Peru the poor must be fed, has also made him an unlikely spokesman for the masses and drawn many

Isaiah. The contrast with the Patrician Vargas Llosa, whose elegant and disturbing novels won him world fame, could not be starker.

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One dead, 25 hurt in British ferry blaze

MILFORD HAVEN, Wales, April 9, (AP). One person was killed and 25 injured today after a fire broke out on board a ferry carrying 297 people from Wales to Ireland, the Coast Guard said.

Milford Haven Coast Guard spokesman George Clarke said the dead person had not been identified, but a Royal Air Force spokesman said the victim was a crew member. The injured, including a pregnant woman, were admitted to Withyush hospital in Haverfordwest for treatment.

Of smoke inhalation, cuts and bruises, said a hospital spokeswoman. One woman was transferred to the intensive care unit at West Wales General Hospital.

Some of the injured had been airlifted from the ferry by two RAF helicopters and one Royal Navy helicopter, which also brought firefighters and two doctors to the vessel, Clarke said.

The fire broke out in the forward sleeping cabins beneath the car deck, the Coast Guard said, as the Band 1 ferry

Norroma was eight miles (12 kms) west of the Welsh coast. Firefighters and crew members controlled the blaze within two hours of the captain's distress call, Clarke said, and the Norroma returned to port in Milford Haven under her own power.

Some of the 219 passengers and 78 crew members on board the ferry en route from Milford Haven, 180 miles (300 kms) west of London, to Rosslare, Ireland, said they had to crawl through the thick smoke in cabins and

corridor.

The Dublin, Ireland-based company said in a statement that it suspected that the fire "was started deliberately." It did not elaborate, but the Band 1's marine superintendent, Capt Peter McKenna, told Irish Radio the company was "fairly certain about this."

McKenna said the Irish ferry company believed mattresses or lighted paper started the fire. Police were interviewing all those on board.

Secret files trigger uproar

Swiss surveillance

BERN, April 9, (AP). The retired managing editor of a liberal Swiss newspaper was not pleased to receive word that his political reputation is untarnished.

Paul C. Schaffroth is among the half-million Swiss and foreign nationals who were kept under surveillance by Swiss police. He demanded his official file and got a clean bill of political health.

The existence of the files was a secret until last November, when the surveillance practice was disclosed by a Swiss parliamentary commission.

"These methods are unworthy of our democracy," Schaffroth, 69, said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I feel angry and concerned."

Justice Minister Arnold Koller, currently the Swiss president, was another prominent figure listed in the files.

Koller called the surveillance methods "unacceptable and amateurish" but argued that the practice originated in the cold war and was similar to those used in other countries.

Word of the files triggered an uproar in this country of 6.5 million, which takes pride in being an island of tranquility in a troubled world.

What Koller concedes is "deep crisis of confidence" now threatens to overshadow next year's events marking the 700th anniversary of Switzerland, one of the world's oldest democracies.

"Snooping state" has become a widely used reference in the Swiss press.

Artists and writers have warned they may refuse to help preparations for next year's jubilee. There have also been calls for a boycott of national census planned next December.

"What made us deserve a state which is so unsure of itself that its concern for security becomes paranoid?" Adolf Muschg, a prominent Swiss novelist, asked at a protest rally in Bern last month.

More than 300,000 people so far have asked the federal prosecutor's office for copies of their file cards, if they exist. Answering the letters will take at least until the end of this year.

The government is under pressure to release the full dossiers on which the file cards are based, and officials warn that will take many more months.

Schaffroth, formerly of Der Bund newspaper in Bern, is among less than 30,000 people who have received an answer to date.

More than two decades of state surveillance, established, among other things, that he was once invited by the Chinese embassy to watch a movie on panda bears.

Schaffroth's file also notes that he once took part in a press trip to China, and that as a city councillor in charge of police he once received a letter on the visit of a Soviet delegation.

Published excerpts of other files suggest surveillance focused on contacts with left-wing circles and travels to communist countries.

But even a liking for beer or watching street theater was recorded in the files. And parking a car near an anti-nuclear rally could lead to an entry in the secret dossier of its owner.

Further disclosures of secret files both in the justice and defence ministries have added heat to the debate. They include "suspects" who were to be interned or restricted in movement in case of war or tensions.

Particularly startling was the discovery in the Justice Ministry of data on thousands of foreign children who vacationed in Switzerland in the early postwar years under a Red Cross charity programme.

Hubert Bucher, secretary-general of the Swiss Red Cross, said the records were turned over to the government because of lack of space. He denied official suggestions that the Red Cross had offered them for possible use by Swiss counter-intelligence.

"A storm of mistrust is sweeping the country," Defence Minister Kaspar Villiger told a congress of his conservative radical Democratic Party last month.

The scandal has been the prime topic in letters to the nation's newspapers since January. Recently there has been a backlash, with many defending surveillance — for example as a means of crime control.

Violence flares in UK prison crisis

Charred body found in Dartmoor

LONDON, April 9, (Reuters). An explosion of unrest in jails throughout Britain has thrown the spotlight on a growing crisis in the country's antiquated and overcrowded prison system.

Violence has erupted in at least 14 prisons up and down the country in the week since inmates at Strangeways jail in the northern city of Manchester staged Britain's worst prison riot this century.

The charred body of a prisoner was found in a cell at the notorious Dartmoor prison in southwest England yesterday after inmates gave up their 24-hour siege.

Disturbances flared at eight prisons yesterday alone. In the latest major incident, about 200 prisoners seized part of Horfield jail in the western city of Bristol, the Home Office said.



Rescue workers remove a body bag aboard the Scandinavian Star. (Reuters wirephoto)

Some of the prisoners involved had been transferred from nearby Dartmoor earlier in the day. A group of inmates broke through to the roof and hurled slates at officers below.

As firemen doused them with high-pressure hoses, they hung out a banner saying: "Dartmoor boys on tour."

At Strangeways, a hard core of about 20 prisoners defied elsewhere, inmates staged sit-down protests at jails in London and Leeds and smashed furniture and burned bedding in Cardiff jail.

At Hull prison in northeast England, 110 prisoners awaiting trial refused to come in from exercise. Most of them tried to rush the compound gate but were held back and eventually surrendered.

At London's Pentonville prison, 300 prisoners were evacuated when an inmate pulled a gas pipe from the wall and it had to be replaced.

David Evans, head of the Prison Officers' Association, said British penal institutions suffered from "overcrowding, staff shortages and poor conditions in some institutions" and were being asked to detain more violent prisoners.

But David Mellor, Home Office Minister dismissed suggestions of a fundamental problem with the prisons. He said the disturbances suggest "something is fundamentally wrong with a number of prisoners." Warders and police as the siege went into its ninth day.

Prison officers have said the prison system is collapsing and inmates say the violence has flared up because they are treated like animals.

The prison population of England and Wales, at just over 47,000, has fallen by about 2,500 over the past year. But prisoners' charities say conditions are still grim despite government moves to modernise the system.

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said Britain had one of the highest prison populations in Western Europe, both in absolute numbers and in relation to its overall population.

Prisoners often spend up to 23 hours a day crammed two or three to a cell originally designed for one occupant.

They are particularly disgusted by the wide-spread practice of "slopping out." Many of the cells are not equipped with normal lavatory facilities and they must relieve themselves in buckets.

Many of Britain's prisons are grim, inhospitable buildings more than 100 years old. Outbreaks of rioting have occurred at many jails in recent years.

Strangeways is one of Europe's most overcrowded prisons. Built in 1868 in the centre of Manchester, it now houses 1,600 instead of the 970 it was designed for.

Dartmoor prison, where more than 100 inmates barricaded themselves into part of the building on Saturday night, was built 180 years ago for prisoners from the Napoleonic wars.

The death of the prisoner at Dartmoor brought the confirmed death toll in the week's prison violence to three.

Youths urged to meet Pope

VATICAN CITY, April 9, (AP). Pope John Paul II yesterday invited youths from around the world to join him at Poland's most famous Roman Catholic shrine in August 1991 to mark World Youth Day.

The Polish-born Pope said that the Madonna of Czestochowa, honoured at the shrine in southern Poland, "has constituted the heart of the history of the Polish people for more than 600 years."

The Pope's statement at the conclusion of a Palm Sunday mass was his first confirmation of a 1991 trip to Poland. Polish church officials have said they expected a visit, the fourth by John Paul II to his homeland since he became Pope in 1978.



Dartmoor inmates shown on the roof April 8 (Reuters wirephoto)

Book on poverty

LONDON, April 9, (Kuna). Millions of people were barred from being full citizens in the UK because they are poor, according to a new book published here today to mark the 25th anniversary of the child poverty action group.

Inequalities "run like fault-lines" through society to shape the nation's civil, political and socialists fears, the study by the group pointed out.

"The exclusion of millions of our fellow citizens from the enjoyment of the full rights of citizenship that a wealthy society like ours can provide is an issue for public, not private morality," the book added.

Four British soldiers killed in N. Ireland

Land mine blast

DOWNPATRICK, Northern Ireland, April 9, (AP). Four soldiers died today when their Land Rover drove over a land mine in the Northern Ireland town of Downpatrick, police said.

Several other soldiers were reported to have been injured, said a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The soldiers are believed to have been members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, the mainly Protestant, locally recruited regiment of the British Army, said the spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom.

There was no immediate claim. The explosion occurred just

before 8 am (10700 GMT) near the Downpatrick race course in county down, in the southeast part of the province.

"The target appears to have been an army Land Rover," the police spokesman said. "I can confirm that four people have died in the attack, four members of the security forces."

The deaths bring to 16 the number of people killed in political and sectarian violence in Northern Ireland so far this year. The Irish Republican Army is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland and unite the predominantly Protestant province with the Roman Catholic Republic of Ireland.

Soviet military strength continues to pose a potential threat to Japan

TOKYO, April 9, (AP). The Soviets continue to pose a potential military threat to Japan, a top Japanese defence official said today.

Akira Hiyoshi, chief of the bureau of defence policy in the defence agency, noted that the Soviet Union recently announced cuts in its Asian military forces, some of which have already been realised.

But the Soviets have also taken steps including modernisation of weaponry.

Hiyoshi told a lower house budget committee session.

"This will be a potential threat to our country," though Japan does not believe the Soviet Union actually has aggressive intentions toward it, Hiyoshi said.

Hiyoshi's comments came during a committee session on Japan's fiscal 1990 budget.

The spending plan calls for 4.16 trillion yen (\$29.3 billion) in defence outlays, a

increase of about 6 per cent from the previous fiscal year.

Japanese officials have said the increase is needed to improve housing and living conditions of the self defence forces and help meet US demands that Japan pay more or all of the cost of maintaining 50,000 US troops in the country.

Military spending remains a sensitive topic in Japan, whose post-World War II

constitution bans offensive military capability and renounces war as a means of settling international disputes.

Hiyoshi's comments came in response to questions from Shioichi Ichikawa, a legislator from the opposition Komeito (clean government) Party, who asked whether the government had revised its view of the military threat posed by the Soviets in light of reduced superpower tensions.

On-site probe will take days

Ferry fire

LYSEKIL, Sweden, April 9, (AP). Authorities say it will take days to begin an on-site investigation of possible arson into the fire that killed as many as 147 people aboard the Scandinavian Star ferry.

A commission of inquiry would be set up to work parallel to a police probe.

Meanwhile, the first bodies were taken from the blackened ferry on Sunday after the ship was towed into port, its midsection still burning.

Police hunted a suspected arsonist today.

Forty-three bodies were removed from the ship late yesterday.

We are basing our work on the concrete theory that it was arson," Oslo assistant chief of police Magnar Auksrust told a news conference.

It was the worst European ferry disaster since 189 died on the Herald of free enterprise of Belgium in 1987.

Some of the bodies recovered from the 10,513-tonne ship were immediately placed on a refrigerated truck which left for Oslo, where identification will take place. The truck was accompanied by a funeral car and police escort.

"We are trying to find as dignified a means of transport as possible," said Roald Onsoe, police chief of the small fishing town of 8,000 where the burning ferry was brought under tow.

The fire began before dawn on Saturday while the ship was in the North Sea carrying about 500 tourists and crewmembers on an overnight trip from Norway to Denmark. The heat was so intense yesterday that it melted aluminum aboard the bridge of the Danish-owned ship.

Exhausted firemen struggled in the intense heat and fumes to reach cabins where victims burned to death or suffocated in the suspicious blaze.

Firefighters in masks and breathing equipment fought through one corridor "until their gear started to burn," said fire consultant Ole Wennstrom. One firefighter was slightly injured, he said.

The blaze, which finally was extinguished late yesterday, sent plumes of smoke over Lysekil, on Sweden's southwest coast 250 miles (400 kilometers) southwest

of Stockholm, the capital on the east coast.

Tugboats doused the ship with water. Holes were blasted into the side of the 10,500-ton ship to allow the water to drain out, for fear that the badly listing ship would topple onto the concrete dock.

Officials with VR-Dano Line, the company in Copenhagen that owns and operates the Bahamian-flagged ship, say the blaze was caused by arson, citing two fires that broke out at a short interval on two different decks.

Distriet police chief Roar Onso, revising earlier figures, said 345 people survived the fire, which broke out about midway on the ship's 10-hour voyage from Oslo to Frederikshavn.

Ferry captain Hugo Larsen told police of 393 passengers and 97 crewmen. If his figure is correct, 147 people died, Onso said.

Forty-three bodies were removed from the ferry before operations were suspended for the night. After a brief ceremony on the wharf, the victims were placed in a refrigerated truck and driven to Oslo for identification.

Firemen found corpses in the corridors and cabins. A few drivers were found in their trucks on the car deck. Most victims were asphyxiated but some were charred beyond recognition.

"It will be very difficult to identify the victims. It will take a long time," Onso said.

Onso confirmed reports that two fires broke out aboard the Scandinavian Star, but he refused to speculate on how that fitted with claims that the fire was deliberately set.

Norwegian police were interviewing survivors and comparing passenger lists with those of ferries that had had suspicious fires to look for arson suspects.

Their suspicions of arson were based on accounts from survivors and similarities between the Scandinavian Star disaster and previous fires on North Sea ferries.

Ship captain Hugo Larsen told Norway's news agency NTB that he was sleeping in his cabin when his helmsman awakened him saying: "Please come to the bridge. I think we have an arsonist on board."

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INTERNATIONAL

Communists ahead in Slovenia polls

Runoff between Kucan and Pucnik possible

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, April 9, (AP) First-round election results in the liberal republic of Slovenia indicated today that the first freely elected president since 1945 would be picked in a runoff between a reformed communist and a conservative secessionist.

With 90 per cent of the ballots from Sunday's presidential elections counted, communist candidate Milan Kucan led with 44.5 per cent and Jozse Pucnik of the right-of-centre Demos opposition coalition was second with 26.1 per cent.

Independent candidate Ivan Kramberger, considered an outsider before the elections, was third

with 18.8 per cent, and Liberal Party candidate Marko Demšar trailed fourth with 10.5 per cent.

Since neither Kucan nor Pucnik received an absolute majority of more than 50 per cent of votes in Sunday's polling, they will meet in a runoff on April 22.

An estimated 1.1 million Slovenians, or 75 per cent of eligible voters, voted in the first multiparty elections in Yugoslavia since World War II. They chose among 17 parties for the new Slovenian parliament and among four candidates for president.

The first-round results "suggest that Slovenians

have opted for a peaceful transition from a single-party monopoly to a parliamentary democracy," Kucan, a key engineer of the republic's road to democracy, told the Associated Press.

Pucnik, a former dissident who spent seven years in Slovenian prisons in the 1950s for his opposition to communism, said he was confident of winning the runoff "because those who voted for Kramberger and Demšar will now probably vote for me."

Political analysts predict a close race between Pucnik, who advocates quick secession, and Kucan, who has called for a more cautious approach.

Initial results suggest that the Slovenian coun-

munists, who recently renamed themselves to Party of Democratic Renewal, will become the largest single party in the multi-party parliament, but will face a tough Demos coalition consisting of five conservative parties.

Partial results indicated the former communists would collect about 21 per cent of votes for representation in the future 240-seat Parliament, while five parties belonging to the Demos would have about 35 per cent.

Due to the slow and complicated counting process, official results of the parliamentary vote were expected only tomorrow.



Pucnik waves to supporters after he and his wife voted in the elections. (Reuters wirephoto)



Jozsef Antall

Forum wins Hungary polls

BUDAPEST, April 9, (AP) Leaders of the conservative Hungarian Democratic Forum were faced today with the task of forming a government after free parliamentary elections that ended four decades of communist rule.

According to unofficial final results, the Democratic Forum won 165 of 386 parliamentary seats at stake in yesterday's voting and in a first round of balloting two weeks ago.

Supporters at the Democratic Forum headquarters clapped and whistled as the party's leader, Jozsef Antall, flashed a victory sign and announced, "we've won the elections," even before final results were in.

The crowd also applauded when a Forum official read the unofficial tally for the Agrarian Smallholders and the Christian Democrats, which came in third and fifth. Both are considered likely coalition partners, largely sharing its Christian values of family sanctity and emphasis on Hungarian tradition.

The party's chief rival, the liberal League of Free Democrats, was a distant second with 92 seats, according to results issued by the national vote counting center.

The Socialist Party created by communist reformers who initiated democratic changes in Hungary that led to free elections, was fourth with 8.55 per cent of the vote and 33 seats.

After the first round March 25, the Democratic Forum had only a slight edge over the Free Democrats, but finished yesterday with 42.75 per cent of the vote compared to 23.83 for the Free Democrats. Formal final results were not expected before tomorrow.

The smallholders who were third with 43 seats had 11.14 per cent of the vote, and the Christian Democrats were fifth at 21 mandates and 5.44 per cent.

The League of Young Democrats, which is ideologically closest to the Free Democrats, was tied with the Christian Democrats.

Another 11 seats were divided among six independents, four candidates who were supported by more than one party and one candidate of the splinter Agrarian Federation.

The conservative victory was the second in free elections in the Soviet bloc. In East Germany, where Eastern Europe's first free elections were held March 18, conservatives also gained a clear victory. The communists were relegated to a relatively unimportant opposition role.

Antall indicated that he intended to begin preliminary negotiations immediately on forming a government.

Georgia mourns its martyrs

Lithuania faces new battle of nerves with military

MOSCOW, April 9, (Agencies) Twenty Georgians killed a year ago at an independence rally were honoured in the Soviet Union on Sunday, but separatist Lithuania faced a new battle of nerves with the military.

As Georgians lit candles and laid carnations at the scene of the tragedy in Tbilisi, several thousand sympathisers gathered outside the Tsar's winter palace in far-off Leningrad.

President Mikhail Gorbachev himself sent a message of condolence to mark the anniversary and Soviet television said such bloodshed must never recur.

The Leningrad meeting was clearly sympathetic to the independence aspirations of

smaller Soviet republics, pressed in defiance of Gorbachev's calls for patience.

Radical member of parliament Anatoly Sobchak told the meeting that respect for the rights and freedoms of others was the only way forward.

"If you want your own rights and freedoms to be respected, you have to respect the rights and freedoms of others, whatever their nationality," he said as shown on Soviet television.

The rally was called principally to mark the April 9, 1989, killing of the 20 Georgian demonstrators, attacked by Soviet soldiers with sharpened shovels and poison gas in Tbilisi.



Rally in support of NSF

A Romanian boy makes a victory sign during a rally in support of Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) in Bucharest April 8. About 8,000 supporters joined

the rally which launched the NSF campaign. (Reuters wirephoto)

E. German talks resume

Leaders still squabbling

EAST BERLIN, April 9, (AP) Weary East German negotiators resumed talks today on building a coalition government among political parties that have differing views on unification with West Germany.

More than three weeks after East Germany's first free elections on March 18, party leaders were still squabbling over the new cabinet. The political

much less optimistic.

Richard Schroeder, a leading Social Democrat lawmaker, told reporters after a fruitless five hours of talks yesterday that the negotiations had entered a "difficult phase," but that he hoped to see progress today.

The East German government is being formed by Christian Democrat Lothar de Maiziere, who leads a three-party Conservative Alliance that holds the most seats in the 400-member parliament.

The Alliance lacks the two-thirds majority that is needed to enact constitutional changes to allow unification with West Germany. A coalition with the Social Democrats would give De Maiziere control, but if negotiations with that party fail, he can try to build coalitions with other political parties.

Schroeder gave no indication as to why talks broke down yesterday. But the parties were likely to be wrangling over who would get which ministries. It was the fourth straight unsuccessful round of negotiations.

The Christian Democrats and the left-leaning Social Democrats differ on the pace of reunification, which was the main issue in the East Germany's first free elections on March 18. The Social Democrats favour a

more gradual form of reunification.

The parties also differ on the role and makeup of an East German government, which faces dire economic problems.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher wants the first "two-plus-four" ministerial meeting on German

unity to take place this month, according to Bonn government sources.

They said he would try to persuade the foreign ministers of East Germany and the World War Two allies — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France — to join him in a meeting in Bonn on April 26-27.

Europe home idea

Ligachev mocks

MOSCOW, April 9, (UPI) Politburo hardliner Yegor Ligachev mocked Mikhail Gorbachev's idea of a common European home yesterday and called a united Germany destabilizing for Europe in strident criticism of the Soviet leader's foreign policy.

Ligachev, once the No. 2 man in the politburo to Gorbachev in charge of ideology but demoted in 1988 to dealing with agriculture, told the farmers' newspaper "Selskaya Zhizn" that socialism was being abandoned in Eastern Europe.

"I am for the development of peaceful coexistence and increasing co-operation between various states (with different systems), but not at the cost of curtailment of socialism and the strengthening of capitalism," he said.

"If things continue the way they are, then perhaps only the Soviet Union will enter the 'common European home' as a socialist state," Ligachev said, taking a swipe at Gorbachev's vision for a Europe of good neighbours.

Ligachev hearkened back to World War II in which the Soviet Union lost at least 20 million people to explain his fears about reuniting Germany, divided since the end of the war into two states with the mainstay of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

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US may return to Cam Ranh

Vietnam suggests

WASHINGTON, April 9, (AP) Vietnamese officials privately suggested allowing the US military to return to Cam Ranh Bay if relations between the countries continue to warm, says a US congressman who recently met with them.

Congressman Thomas Ridge, said the extraordinary possibility was raised informally at a forum in Bali, Indonesia, attended by several congressmen and a group of top-ranking officials of Vietnam's communist government.

A congressional delegation headed by the chairwoman of the house subcommittee responsible for overseeing US military bases hopes to visit Cam Ranh Bay this week as part of a 10-day trip to Vietnam, China, Singapore and Indonesia.

The mission's purpose is to explore alternatives to US military bases in the Philippines. Leases on six US installations in the Philippines expire in 1991 and American officials anticipate difficult negotiations for continued base rights there.

The Soviet Union moved into the US-built base at Cam Ranh Bay at the conclusion of the Vietnam war in 1975, but US defence officials said in January that the Soviets had withdrawn some fighter planes and bombers.

The possibility of the Soviets withdrawing completely from the base and Americans returning to it was one of the subjects at the Indonesia forum sponsored by the Henry R. Luce Foundation, Ridge said.

"That possibility was discussed and under the right set of circumstances I think the Vietnamese would welcome it," said Ridge, who saw Vietnam war combat as an enlisted man.

"One of the ranking Vietnamese officials said, 'I can see the day when American ships are docked in Cam Ranh Bay,'" Ridge said, adding that the officials later specified that he meant warships.

"We said, 'Do you mean just for refueling?' And they said, 'No, for repairs.'" Ridge said.

Ridge said conditions of the forum prevented him from identifying the Vietnamese official.

Congressman Chester Atkins, who also was at the meeting, said returning to Cam Ranh Bay "would require some major changes in the relationship between the United States and Vietnam."

But Atkins, who declined to discuss specifics of the meeting, also said: "I think the Vietnamese are desperate. Their economy is in a state of continued deterioration. I think they're willing to look at or think about anything that doesn't endanger their national security that would allow them to rejoin the economic community and modernise."

The United States and Vietnam have no diplomatic or trade relations. The US State Department says it will consider relations only after verification of Vietnamese troops withdrawals from Cambodia.

Vietnam on Tuesday will turn over to the United States that remains of 10 persons who may have been Americans — who fought and died in the Vietnam war, the US embassy spokesman said Monday.

A US military team will fly to Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, to receive the remains in a brief airport ceremony, embassy spokesman James H. Williams said.

"Twenty-five years after US forces staged the first landing of the Vietnam war, Americans returned to China beach to lay the foundations for a 'peace village' they hope will aid victims of the conflict, a participant said Sunday."

Gordon Smith, a Vietnam war veteran, said he and nine other Americans laid the cornerstones for the "village," which is to include a rehabilitation centre.

Blacks mourn activists loss

'Died for freedom'

JOHANNESBURG, April 9, (AP) Thousands of mourners attended the funeral yesterday of four black activists who were fatally shot by police in a clash that caused a postponement of black-white talks on power-sharing.

They have died for the cause of freedom," African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu said of those killed in a March 26 confrontation in Sebokeng, a township south of Johannesburg.

At least 11 people died in the shootings, which the ANC cited as its reason for postponing planned talks with the government. The discussions, originally set for April 11, have been rescheduled for May 2-4, according to the government.

Speaking at the funeral service in a soccer stadium in Sebokeng, Sisulu said, "I have no doubt that the end of apartheid is no longer going to be delayed."

The 77-year-old Sisulu, released last year after 26 years in prison, said, "We also mourn deaths of people in various parts of South Africa who have been massacred by police."

He was primarily referring to the southeastern province of Natal, where over 4,000 have died in fighting between rival black factions since 1986.

Supporters of the ANC have been battling the relatively conservative Zulu organisation, Inkatha. The ANC has accused the police of siding with Inkatha, a charge police deny.

Meanwhile, police headquarters in Pretoria said in their daily unrest report that four blacks

died in four separate incidents yesterday. Three of the deaths occurred in Natal. Seven people were injured, including two policemen.

President F.W. de Klerk legalised the ANC and other opposition groups Feb 2. Since then, hundreds of blacks have been killed, most of them in black faction fighting.

In another development yesterday, ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela travelled to the organisation's exile headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, to discuss the planned talks with the government. Mandela is expected to remain in Zambia for several days.

Mandela met Saturday evening in South Africa with leaders of a rival group, the Azanian People's Organisation, and renewed his call for black unity in the battle against apartheid.

"Unity in action and peace among our people require urgent resolution," the two sides said in a joint statement following the meeting in Soweto, the township outside Johannesburg.

Thousands of mourners attended the funeral yesterday of four of the demonstrators shot by South African police, whose deaths delayed talks between the African National Congress (ANC) and Pretoria.

Some of the mourners wore ANC colours while others carried banners saying, "Why did they murder our comrades?" and "bullets won't kill us."

Representatives of several countries including New Zealand, Sweden and Canada were present.

Romania to establish new secret police force without 'repressive functions'

BUCHAREST, April 9, (AP) Interim President Ion Iliescu said after being nominated yesterday as a candidate for May's presidential elections that a new secret police service will be established but that it would not have "repressive functions."

Iliescu, in comments to reporters after a two-day conference in which he was nominated as the National Salvation Front's presidential candidate, said the new security force would not be like the dreaded Securitate, which was dismantled in the wake of the December revolution that ousted leader Nicolae Ceausescu.

The Securitate was blamed for arresting and torturing thousands of suspected opponents to the now-toppled communist regime.

Iliescu said the new Romanian internal security service would not be allowed to carry out inquiries or imprison people.

"It will deal in information and counterespionage, and will be deprived of repressive functions," Iliescu said. "This service will have a new structure, similar to those existing throughout the civilised (Western) world."

Iliescu did not announce any timetable, but according to government officials, the security force is expected to be created by the May 20 multiparty elections.

In a speech opening the Front's first national conference on Saturday, Iliescu rejected opposition allegations that the Front operates like the old Communist Party, saying it was a modern organisation with democratic aims.

About 6,000 supporters cheered Iliescu and waved flags at a civic rally following his nomination as the Front's candidate for presidential elections, to

be staged May 20 along with the first free parliamentary elections since 1937.

"The National Salvation Front will avoid any kind of dogmatism," he pledged. "The Front declared a break with the communist structure ... a return to the past is impossible."

Iliescu outlined an election platform Saturday that was apparently aimed at reassuring Romanians they would not lose the security communism promised them while the country makes economic and other advances.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (right) greets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at Baghdad airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hostage freedom according to plan

BEIRUT, April 9, (AP): The Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said yesterday that plans to free at least three French and Belgian hostages were proceeding, but warned that statements by the Belgian justice minister countered an agreement reached in negotiations.

The statement delivered to a Western press agency quoted Walid Khaleel, Beirut spokesman for Fatah-Revolutionary Council, assaying that the release of Mrs Jacqueline Valente, her boyfriend Fernand Houtekins and their daughter Sophie born in captivity was "proceeding according to plan."

"We shall announce the date and place of their release in due time," it said.

The group first announced Friday that three on the eight hostages it holds would be released in response to a plea by Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi.

But its latest statement criticised Belgian Justice Minister Melchior Wathelet for "reneging in public statements on commitments made during unannounced negotiations."

Khaleel did not mention the minister by name, but added: "It is necessary that he correct these statements, otherwise I shall find myself obligated to publish the minutes of the negotiations with the officials of legal representatives of the Belgian government, which included the justice minister himself."

The statement did not give any other details.

Wathelet said after a cabinet meeting in Brussels Friday that he had made no promises to obtain the release of the hostages.

"On Thursday the government said in a statement that it was pleased with Khaddafi's call for the release of all hostages."

"But the attack on the minister suggested the other Belgian hostages seized by Abu Nidal's group off a boat with Ms Valente and her Belgian boyfriend would not be freed."

The Friday statement had attacked the Belgian government for not making a serious effort to free the hostages, saying only France and Khaddafi had taken the initiative on the issue.

But it warned the Belgian government to fulfill unspecified pledges to "curb Zionist activities against the revolution of our people."

Abu Nidal announced on Nov. 8, 1987 that it had seized a group of hostages from the French yacht Silco off the Gaza Strip and accused them of collaborating with Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. Friends said the group was on holiday cruise.

New building plan for Cairo airport

CAIRO, April 9, (Kuna): Egypt is preparing to build the second, central, building of its international airport-terminal 2 to accommodate five million more passengers yearly.

Head of the airport authority Maj Gen Pilot Abdul Aziz Bader told Kuna, in an interview that increased number of tourists visiting the country in the past few years had necessitated launching the study on starting to build the new facility.

He noted that no date has been set for beginning the construction awaiting end of studies in this regard.

The terminal 2 was recently built only 2 kilometres away from the old one and was designed as three similar buildings in co-operation with the Paris airport authority, he underlined.

Bader said that the first building was open to air traffic two years ago at the cost of 343 million French francs and 40 million Egyptian pounds.

The airport head official said that he insisted that all construction materials for the second building should be bought from Egypt unlike the first one which had cost a lot.

Pharaonic and Islamic designs will feature the second building, he noted and pointed out that 23 Arab and foreign airlines were using the first building of terminal 2.

Bader said that dividing airline companies on both terminals depend on intensity of passengers carried by each airline and elaborated that airlines with big numbers of passengers such as Kuwait Airways, Saudia, French and British airlines use the terminal 2 while the rest land at terminal 1.

Both airport terminals accommodated 7.2 million passengers in 1989 with an increase of 500,000 passengers over 1988, he pointed out.

On other improvements to be installed in the Cairo airport, he said that advanced air traffic equipment will be installed to help planes land in bad weather conditions.

No indication that Iraq wants new conflict

BAGHDAD, April 9, (AP): President Saddam Hussein's warning that he would use poison gas to counter any attack by Israel has thrust his battle-tempered nation into a war of words about nuclear and chemical weapons in the Middle East.

But most diplomats interviewed in Baghdad saw no indication that Iraq, fresh from the searing experience of the 1980-88 war with Iran, wants to start a new conflict.

One Western diplomat said the Iraqi leader "isn't suicidal. I don't believe for a minute he thinks he could overwhelm

Israel."

The 1980-88 war with Iran, with its human and economic cost, pounded home a sense of political and military reality among Baghdad's leadership, diplomats said.

"Because of the war and the sacrifices it made, Iraq is more mature," Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun told a conference on Iraq in London last month.

Western analysts believe that the need for allies during the war forced Baghdad to moderate its policies. They cited as an example the rapprochement with Egypt,

ostracised in the Arab world in 1979 for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

Iran, still technically at war with Iraq despite the August 1988 ceasefire, remains Baghdad's chief worry.

Hamdoun noted that the "long-term prospects for peace are very bleak indeed" because internal divisions in Iran are blocking peace negotiations.

Still, little more than three years after experts predicted Saddam would fall before a massive Iranian assault battering Iraq's borders, he is bolstering his oil might and flexing his military muscle.

Iraq has built the most formidable

regional arsenal outside Israel.

Israel, alarmed at the build-up by Iraq and other Arab states, sees its long-held technological superiority eroding.

Diplomats in Baghdad believe that real concern of a pre-emptive Israeli strike, not mere sabbre-rattling, lies behind Saddam's warning last Monday.

When the Gulf war fighting halted in 1988, Iraq had a 1 million-man, battle-seasoned Army and missiles capable of hitting either Tehran or Tel Aviv.

In February, Iraq announced it had tested missiles with a 2,000 kms (1,250-

mile) range -- enough to strike into Europe or the Soviet Union.

An Israeli air raid in 1981 that knocked out a nuclear reactor near Baghdad still haunts Saddam's government.

Iraqis grew alarmed in late December when Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, reacting to the Iraqi missile tests, said his country reserved the right to respond as it thought fit. Iraq saw that as a threat.

Fears rose as other Israeli officials and newspapers spoke of the need to neutralise Iraq's growing missile power.

Break bones orders

Three Israeli soldiers testify

TEL AVIV, April 9, (AP): Three Israeli soldiers testified yesterday that they were told that orders to break the bones of Palestinian prisoners came from a high echelon. One said he believed the orders originated with then-Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The soldiers -- reserve Sgt. Guy Neeman, Amiram Avirosh and Ronen Ferber -- were called as defence witnesses in the court martial of Col. Yehuda Meir, the former commander of the Israeli troops in the Nablus area of the West Bank.

Meir, 38, who left the army in 1989, is charged with ordering soldiers to break the limbs of detainees taken into custody in the West Bank villages of Beita and Hawara in January 1988.

The trial began last month after state attorney Yosef Harish overturned an army recommendation to allow Meir to resign from the Army and avoid court martial.

Col. Menashe Finkelstein, chief prosecutor of the Army, suggested in cross-examination of the defence witnesses that the orders had in fact originated from the officers in the field.

But at the start of the trial, Meir was quoted by the Hada-shot newspaper as suggesting the orders to break bones originated from a higher echelon.

"The entire leadership of the Israeli defence forces from the chief of staff and other commanders ... will have to answer questions they may wish to silence," he was quoted as saying.

At the third session of his trial, Meir sat impassively, often smiling to himself or turning to his wife, as the three soldiers detailed the brutal actions in Beita on the night of Jan 19 and Hawara two days later.

According to Avirosh, the Beita incident began when the company went to investigate a firebomb attack. He said Meir appealed to village leaders for calm, but gangs of youths blocked the roads and hurled stones.

"We felt humiliated, and we were definitely awaiting the order to attack," he said.

Using a list, he said the soldiers rounded up 12 Arabs who were put in handcuffs and in some cases blindfolded before being put on a bus and driven out of town. After several kilometres they were ordered off and "beaten very badly," he said.

Avirosh said he was not chosen to beat the Palestinians but said "at one point I started hitting them myself because I felt I had to release all the tension that had been building up."

"They were lying on the ground, screaming and crying and whimpering. Afterwards, we were in shock. I couldn't believe that I behaved this way. It was like a horror," he recounted.

He said the company commander, identified only as Eldad, talked to the soldiers after the incident and told them "it was not easy for him to give us this order."

Recalled Avirosh: "(Eldad said) it was immoral, but the order came from high up. I think he said from the defence minister."

Rabin, who resigned last month when the Labour Party left the coalition government, told a news conference on Jan 19, 1988, that the Army had orders to quell riots with "force, power and blows."

Rabin subsequently said the policy was intended to quell riots without gunfire and denied that he authorised the breaking of prisoners' bones.



Two young boys on their fathers' shoulders carry a wooden cross and large palm frond as they take part in the Palm Sunday procession on the Mount of Olives retracing Jesus Christ's footsteps as he entered Jerusalem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Palm Sunday marred by fighting

Rival Shiites clash in south Beirut

BEIRUT, April 9, (Agencies): Christian worshippers braved sniper fire to attend Palm Sunday religious services in shell-pocked churches, but inter-Christian firefights stopped relief workers from pulling rotting corpses from a Beirut battlefield.

And in Beirut's sprawling southern suburbs, rival Shiite Muslims from the pro-Syrian Amal militia and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement fought a street battle that left three people dead and three wounded, security officials said.

The rival Shiites fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the three-hour skirmish in the residential areas of Shiyah and Ghobeiri, the officials said.

It was not known what caused the inter-Shiite violence to flare. Hezbollah and Amal have battled for more than three years for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiite Muslims.

In southern Lebanon, artillery shells fired from the Israeli-proclaimed security zone hit six Shiite villages around the market town of Nabatiyeh, 33 miles (53 km) southeast of Beirut, police said. One person was killed and six wounded in the bombardment, police said.

In Christian East Beirut, children in white garments and waving candles and olive branches led flocks of Christian faithful past front lines, where troops from rival Christian forces brandished machine guns and anti-armor rockets.

Many youngsters were shouldered by smartly dressed men as thousands of families emerging from

their sand-bagged shelters and damaged homes in the 310-square-mile (800-sq-km) Christian region.

The television station run by Samir Geagea's Christian Lebanese Forces militia broadcast videotape showing thousands of people attending festivities inside churches with shell-damaged ceilings and shrapnel-cut furniture.

Although Christian clerics urged Geagea's followers and their foes from the army of Christian military Gen. Michel Aoun to maintain calm, the annual festival was marred with violence.

Military sources loyal to Aoun said workers of the Lebanese Red Cross were caught in crossfire at the devastated town of Qlaiaat in the mountainous district of Kesrouwane, 12 miles (19 km) northeast of Beirut as the rescuers tried to recover seven decaying bodies from the battleground.

"While the Red Cross tried to pull the militia corpses, gunmen advanced and attempted to boost their positions," a spokesman of Aoun's army said.

● Israeli troops and allied militiamen retaliated for an assault yesterday by shelling villages in south Lebanon. Security sources said two people were killed and nine wounded in the attacks.

● Arab League foreign ministers trying to bring peace to Lebanon welcomed a decision by Geagea to recognise Lebanon's Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi.

● About 2,000 Christian pilgrims opened the Easter season in Jerusalem with a procession down the Mount of Olives on Palm Sunday, singing prayers in many languages.

Jordan police recover rare stolen mosaic

AMMAN, April 9, (AP): Police said yesterday they arrested three antiquities thieves and recovered an important, 1,200-year-old mosaic that was damaged when pried out of a desert castle.

The 5-by-6-metre (yard) mosaic with a "tree of life" design was stolen April 1 from the floor of Hallab Castle and will now be kept in a museum.

The ministry said the multi-colored design, depicting a large tree surrounded by lions, bulls, goats and birds, was created in the 8th century when the fortress was used as hunting outpost by early Islamic rulers.

The Roman and Islamic fortresses lie 45 km (30 miles) northwest of Amman.

Antiquities director Ghazi Bishrah told the Associated Press that the mosaic was the only nearly complete early Islamic mosaic in Jordan "before it was stolen, but obviously the gang dropped it somewhere while they were hurrying to leave the castle."

US Senate delegation in Damascus talks

DAMASCUS, April 9, (Agencies): A US Senate delegation headed by minority leader Robert Dole arrived in Damascus yesterday at the start of a Middle East tour centred on regional peace efforts and the plight of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Dole and five other senators were welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara. Officials said Dole held talks later with Shara and was scheduled to meet President Hafez Al Assad before leaving for Cairo today.

"I am here to learn about Syria. We know that Syria is a key country in the peace process if it (the process) is to succeed," said Dole, who met President George Bush on Friday.

The Senate Republican leader said in response to a question that his mission carried no specific initiative towards bringing peace to the Middle East.

Dole said the fate of 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, where Syria is the main foreign power broker, would be discussed during his talks in Damascus. Eight Americans and three Britons are among those believed held by pro-Iranian Muslim militants.

Dole, his fellow Republicans Alan Simpson, James McClure, Frank Murkowski and Charles Grassley, and Democrat Howard Metzenbaum will also visit Jordan and Israel.

Reports from the Jordanian capital said a silent procession is to be held on Wednesday to protest the visit of the US Senators.

Representatives from the Arab-American anti-discrimination committee will lead the procession in which the Mayor of Jerusalem Roubi Al Khatib and expelled Palestinians will take part.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Jordan to reopen embassy in Libya

Jordan has sent two diplomats to Tripoli to reopen the Jordanian embassy burned down by Libyan crowds in 1984, a Foreign Ministry official said today.

He said Hisham Muheissen and Ahmed Sahouri, both with the rank of ambassador, would inspect the building repaired at Libya's expense after the two states agreed to improve ties.

Jordan announced it was restoring diplomatic relations with Libya in 1987 ahead of an Arab League summit in Amman but no action was taken to reopen embassies. (Reuters)

Bomb scare at Cairo school

Anonymous bomb threats today forced the evacuation of hundreds of children from the British International School in Cairo, the headmaster said.

Headmaster Harry Carson of Lisburn, Ireland, said some 460 mainly foreign children were evacuated after he received three bomb threats by telephone.

After a two hour search of the grounds by bomb experts failed to reveal anything, staff and children returned to the school and classes resumed. (Reuters)

Mubarak to visit Moscow, Damascus

CUS: President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday he planned to visit the Soviet Union and Syria next May, the official Middle East News Agency reported.

Mubarak was scheduled to visit Moscow last month, but Cairo-based diplomats said a row over the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel forced a postponement of the trip.

Mubarak will also visit Syria for talks with President Hafez Al Assad, the agency reported. It said Mubarak would hold consultations in Cairo with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi before meeting Assad. (UPI)

Kurd guerrillas killed in clash

Suspected Kurdish guerrillas clashed with security forces near the Iraqi border and at least nine suspected rebels were killed, Turkish news agencies reported.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted deputy regional governor Nufuz Kayali as saying that the clash took place when security forces acting on a tip surrounded a group of rebels Saturday afternoon near Oymakaya village, 40 km (25 miles) from the Iraqi border. (AP)

Hundreds of pelicans die

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 9, (AP): About 250 pelicans washed up dead on Israeli beaches yesterday and Nature officials said they had apparently drowned from exhaustion, Israel television said.

Another 200 were found expiring but alive, the television said. Inspectors from the Society for the Protection of Nature rounded these up and began trying to save them.

Officials from the society suspected mass poisoning at first, but autopsies done on the beaches determined that they simply drowned, probably from exhaustion, the TV said.

"This is not poisoning that happened here, and it is not a disease. It's exhaustion and the truth is they drowned," said Dr Amnon Lavov, a veterinarian for the society.

Israel is a major migration route for birds returning to Europe from winter feeding in Africa and the pelicans apparently were blown out to sea in a storm on their way north, Lavov said.

They probably became exhausted over the sea and could not continue their flight, he said.

Corruption charges exaggerated

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche acknowledged that corruption existed in Algeria but said charges that former officials robbed the country of \$26 billion were irresponsible and grossly exaggerated.

In an interview with the official Algerian news agency APS, he dismissed charges by former prime minister Abdelhamid Brahimi that the unnamed officials had pocketed \$26 billion in bribes and commissions on foreign contracts. (Reuters)

Palestinian presence in Lebanon

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has called for a new pact with Lebanon to organise the armed presence of his men in the country, his strongest military base in the Middle East.

"We would like to co-operate with the Lebanese government and discuss a new Lebanese-Palestinian accord," he was quoted as saying by Beirut's independent An Nabar newspaper today. (Reuters)

Peres solidifies his position to form next Israeli government

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 9, (Reuters): Israel's Labour Party leader Shimon Peres has lured political defectors to his side and has solidified his prospects of heading the next government.

Religious parties, which had sworn loyalty to the rightist Likud Party of caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, began softening their tone towards Peres, who is trying to break a 60-60 deadlock in the 120-seat parliament.

Analysts said the rabbis' desire to secure money for their religious institutions would override any ideological considerations.

Peres has vowed that the cabinet he presents to parliament for approval on Wednesday will accept a US peace proposal to push stalled Arab-Israeli peace efforts forward.

"We will form a stable government that will focus on two central issues, peace negotiations and immigration," Peres said yesterday.

It was his most rewarding day since President Chaim Herzog asked him to form a government three weeks ago.

But the Israeli public, disgusted by the political haggling by Likud and Labour to sway defectors to their ranks, continued a

massive campaign for change in the electoral system.

On Saturday some 150,000 people demonstrated to abolish the system of proportional representation that gives religious parties the balance of power. Police said it was the biggest rally ever in Israel.

Peres also secured the support of three small leftist parties and Likud defector Avraham Shinar.

The Socialist Mapam Party and the civil rights movement gave their backing on the guarantee that they could vote freely on Palestinian issues and also introduce leg-

islation to repeal a law banning meetings between Israelis and members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Until yesterday Peres only had the support of one of four religious parties, Agudat Israel. But as Likud's chances to block Peres's bid to the government waned, religious party leaders began talking about Peres in reconciliatory terms.

"If Likud is not able to keep its own people, I think the National Religious Party ... must start negotiating with the leader of the new government," said Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party.

Ethiopian air raids on Masawa

NAIROBI, April 9, (Reuters): At least 24 civilians were killed and 75 wounded yesterday as Ethiopian air force jets bombed the rebel-held Red Sea port of Masawa, rebel radio monitored in Nairobi reported today.

The Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea radio said four Soviet-made MIG jets repeatedly attacked a densely populated area of Masawa.

Earlier, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said in a telex message in Reuters in Nairobi that 12 civilians died and 45 were injured in another day of air raids on Friday, when bombs were dropped on the commercial centre of the town.

Over the past week, the radio said, successive Ethiopian air raids have killed a total of 71 people.

Masawa was captured by the EPLF after heavy fighting in February. Eritrea, bordering the Red Sea in northern Ethiopia, is the centre of Africa's longest-running civil war, now in its 28th year.

No amendments to labour law: Thamer

Company owners criticise restrictions

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has no intention to amend the new labour law of the private sector that has been in effect for the past year.

Speaking on the issue, Mohammed Shahhan Al Thamer, Assistant Under-Secretary at the ministry commented that the ministerial decision organising work permits had been supported by a section of people and rejected by others. Specifically, he said there is strong opposition to the decision not to allow workers to transfer from one company to another in the private sector until

the worker had completed three years of service with the original sponsor.

However, the official said that the ministry has decided to abide by the decision, as it has many positive aspects compared to a few negative consequences. Thamer said: "We seek to achieve stability in the labour market and to strengthen the contractual agreements between the worker and his employer."

An exception to the rule, the official said is accorded to workers engaged in contracting companies who are granted permission in certain circumstances to

transfer to a new sponsor prior to completing the mandatory three years period of service. As a further form of assistance, the ministry also permits expatriates who hold family residences to transfer them to work permits. Workers are also permitted to transfer their work permits to other employers if their original companies close business or stop working.

Control

The decision, which is new, has many positive aims, primarily the one tailored to achieve an optimum population mix and to encourage national manpower

and workers from the GCC states to take up employment in the private sector. It is further designed to eradicate the trading in work permits and control the excess labour force.

However, Thamer disclosed that the number of work permits issued this year, are more than those issued during the same period last year and is vivid proof that the authorities do not oppose employers in developing their projects. The ministry agrees to all legitimate employers to bring in additional workers where the need is genuine, the official added.

Meanwhile, a number of

owners and directors of companies and establishments in the private sector were critical of the new labour law and described it as being restrictive and said that it fringes on the rights of workers who want to relocate to other services in the private sector. These owners commented that the employer has no legal authority to compel the worker to work for a continued period of three years. They said that both the employer and the employee should be allocated a trial working period of three months to ascertain that they are capable of continuing fruitfully the working relation.

Oil reserves to last over 100 years: report

ABU DHABI, April 9. (Opecna). The oil reserves of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates will last more than 100 years, according to the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A new study made by the chamber said that the Saudi reserves would last 136 years, while those of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates would do so for 206 and 173 years respectively.

The reserves, together with those of other Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states — Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — stood at 455.4 billion barrels in 1988, about 45.9 per cent of the world total.

The UAE, the study said, was the second largest GCC oil producer in 1988 with an average daily output of 1.5 million B/D. In terms of gas production, it came fourth in the region with 77.3 billion cu. ft. Total GCC gas output was 774.5 billion cu. ft.

The report put the UAE second to Saudi Arabia in oil export earnings, eight billion dollars against the kingdom's 19.6 billion.

GCC domestic product totalled 139.2 billion dollars, while its foreign assets stood at 117.5 billion, according to the study.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Municipal meeting

THE Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammed Al Sayed Abdul Mohsen Al Refai, presided over a meeting of the ministerial service committee, which contains on its board the Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Nasser Al Roudhan, Communications Minister, Abdullah Al Sharhan, Minister of State for Services Affairs, Issa Al Mazedel, Electricity and Water Minister, Homoud Al Rqabah and Public Works Minister, Abdul Rahman Al Houti.

The committee discussed a number of issues relating to the execution of vital services in designated areas and stressed the need for speeding up work at this stage.

The committee also discussed ways of speeding up the provision of all needed major services to farmers in Abdali and Wafra, particularly telephone power, roads and water, and to locate the problem areas and sort out the problems facing farmers due to the lack for these services.

The committee also discussed the charges to be levied on the farmers for the services to be provided, which will undoubtedly contribute to raising the productivity level in agricultural farms, in line with the recommendations adopted by the members of the committee.

Unified number

THE telephone exchanges of emergency, fire and ambulance department will be unified, a local daily quoted a security official as saying. He clarified that the proposed project aims at giving a unified number for receiving any call of emergency, fire or ambulance.

Drug conference

MANAMA, April 9. (Kuna): Bahraini Interior Minister, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, left here for London to attend the international conference on drugs, due to convene there for the first time on global ministerial level and under the auspices of the United Nations April 9-11.

The conference aims at enhancing the exchange of expertise and information among governments and their associations and non-governmental organisations in their combat against drugs.

Qatari prisoners

NICOSIA, April 9. (Reuters): Qatar will free 57 prisoners to mark the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, the Qatar News Agency reported yesterday.



Fruit and vegetable merchants at the market

Merchants at Shuwaikh market bemoan problems

Report price increases: Meshaan

MERCHANTS at the Vegetable and Fruit Market in Shuwaikh said that despite assurances from officials to resolve problems at the market, no firm action has been taken.

A local daily interviewed officials and merchants and said that officials categorically deny that there is any problem with the distribution of stalls and commented that merchants who reached strongly to the problem have refused stalls and have given them up freely.

The General Controller of Shuwaikh and Jahra Central Markets, Mohammed Al Meshaan stated that treatment is justly applied to all without exceptions. He said that some senior owners exaggerate the problem. He added that prior to forming the Municipality Affairs Committee in 1987, the system was not properly organised and lacked specific regulations and control. This resulted in some owners possessing several stalls.

Streamlining

A new decision issued by the committee streamlined the functions and regulations and gave all equal opportunities in owning stalls. The official said that priority in allocating stalls is given to the most senior merchants due to their long experience in the field. In this respect, 80 square meters of stalls were distributed to senior merchants and 40 square meters to new merchants.

A number of merchants stated that Sheds 1 and 3 at the vegetables and fruits market are inactive as compared to Shed 2. Officials commented that most merchants who have received stalls at Sheds 1 and 3 refused to work, or refused to receive their stalls.

Prices

Meshaan said that the Municipal Affairs Committee has reorganised the market to assist consumers to shop at one place without the need to

travel to other sheds. He said that he agreed that this method did create some disadvantages, but the issue will be redressed during the coming days.

The official attributed the rise in prices at the market to the merchants greed for seeking higher profits and added that the consumer protection offices are open round the clock and called on the public not to hesitate to voice their complaints with respect to higher prices.

He pointed out that the department had issued 199 citations to merchants last Feb and 97 during March 1990. Meshaan said that a plan is under way to standardise specifications to unit containers on weight and size basis and the project is to be implemented in all GCC states.

Meetings

Nouri Abdul Al Nouri, one of the senior merchants said that he has been working in this field since 1958 and indicated that since he located to the Shuwaikh market he had never occupied the same stall. He said that senior merchants are now intending to hold meetings as they have come to the conclusion that the Municipal Affairs Committee is not extending merchants any facilities.

Abdul Mohsen Ali Al Wazan, who inherited the business from his father said that many new merchants cheat the customers both in weight and prices and consequently, customers have come to distrust owners. This has consequently reflected negatively on the level of sales. He cited an example of low sales by pointing out that in the past the vegetables and fruits market received over 100 freezer trucks daily, but this has reduced drastically. Most merchants have given up this type of profession, particularly national manpower which is replaced by non-Kuwaiti merchants.

Haphazard storage causing fires: Shuwaikh fire chief

Violators to be fined

THE commander of the fire brigade in charge of the Shuwaikh and Farwaniya industrial area Lt Col. Hameed Bahmen has said that the problems facing the area under his scope of operation are many, criticising the failure by some owners of companies and stores to comply with the conditions of storage.

He said that the Shuwaikh Industrial area is considered a high-risk area as it is afflicted with the frequency of fire outbreaks. He urged citizens to clear the roads and avoid crowding around fire-sites to facilitate the passage of fire-engines in time to keep things under control.

He said that most fires at home are caused by inattention to children, who are left to mess around with matches unwatched by parents or the maids who are frequently put in charge of them while the parents are out.

He also said that the reasons for the high frequency of fires in summer include high temperatures, failure to comply with storage conditions, the emptiness and boredom experienced by children during the summer vacation, while electrical

appliances and matches are at hand.

Bahmen pointed out that cars will occasionally catch fire during the summer due to the extra temperature load on the engine caused by the continuous operation of in-built air-conditioning systems, or the electrical overloads caused by the too many connections to the car's power system, as practised by youths who soup up their audio systems.

He blamed the erroneous stacking patterns when material is stored as a causative factor in fires and said this also hampers free movement of firemen and complicates the fire fight. It is also a direct cause for the spread of fire to neighbouring areas, Bahmen said.

The area has a special committee of specialists who investigate the details of seemingly ambiguous fires to establish whether the fire was intentionally lit or started for natural reasons, Bahmen said.

He pointed out that some people will intentionally set fire to their stores or shops or even cars to avoid being caught for crimes

they have perpetrated such as embezzlement, or theft, but the committee will be able to foil their intentions and bring the guilty to justice.

He said that the fire brigade has modern fire-fighting engines and rescue equipment fitted with extendable ladders that could reach high-rise buildings consisting of 20 storeys.

He added that the firemen are well-trained and are continually sent to special training courses abroad to polish their skills and keep in touch with the latest technologies in this field.

He stressed the need for all owners of companies or stores to organise the process of storing, keep power installations away from inflammable material, insulate the contents of the store, and install automated water sprinkling networks.

He added that special inspectors will regularly visit stores and companies to ensure that method of storage and assortment of goods complied with the Kuwait Fire Department code, adding that violations will be punished by fines ranging from KD150 to 1,500.

Mobile phones dearer in Kuwait

THOUGH mobile telephones have recently been introduced in the country, walking in Kuwait gives one the impression that such services have been a part and parcel of the daily scene in the country for decades.

Consequently, the increasing demand for these sets has seen their prices rise as also subscription and fees. To determine the ramifications, a local daily conducted a poll.

Adnan Ashkanani stated that he had used mobile telephone services during the past few years and commented that the pager device is the best due to its light weight, in addition to many inbuilt characteristics. With respect to mobile fixed telephones, he said that this device can be taken to diwanis and outside gatherings. However, he said that the reception leaves a lot to be desired.

Unfair

On the pricing structure, he said that one device sells for as much as KD1,750. He said that with the increase in subscription fees, more users are selling their sets and called on officials at the Mobile Telephone Company to look into the feasibility of lowering the prices of these devices. He said that giving a subscriber only 20 minutes calling time is unfair.

He said that in the nearby Gulf states, prices were far cheaper and restrictions on time were more pragmatic. He cited the case of Bahrain where a mobile telephone costs 700 Bahraini dinars.

Ahmad Al Ibrahim, another owner said that he had purchased a mobile telephone set five years ago, but with the increase in prices of subscription fees and problems related to calling time, he was considering selling his set. He added that the price of the ministry telephone services have increased as they do not have restrictions on calling time. He called for opening another mobile telephone company in the country to improve customer services.

Students union meets rector

WITHIN its efforts to revise the credit hours system regulations adopted in 1986, Kuwait National Students Union paid a visit recently to Kuwait University Rector Dr. Shuaib Abdullah to up the dialogue over such an issue.

The union's delegation was comprising the chairman of the union Nasser Al Einazi and the chairman of Students Affairs Committee at the Union Nasser Barah.

In an interview with a local daily, Al Einazi was quoted as saying that the discussions with the university rector concentrated on the university's administration move for the solving of this issue in view of the dangerous outcome from the application of the credit hours system regulations since 1986.

He added that university's rector had pledged on March 11th, 1990 to find the necessary solution to this problem during the months of April and May and the Guidance Committee will hold a meeting to debate the relevant proposals submitted in this connection by the union and the university's different faculties in order to refer its recommendation to the deans committee of the university.

He added that, during the meeting the union had repeated its demands for the revising of firm articles in the regulations.

He disclosed that the relevant statistics by the Computer Centre of the Kuwait University clarified that the higher education system in the future university was threatened in view of the increasing number of the students who had been dismissed from the university as a result of the application of the regulations in addition to a great number of students who had been issued warnings.



Jassem Al Nabhan ... reaching out

Personal touch to children's shows

Jassem keeps the essence

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

JASSEM AL NABHAN, the well-known Kuwaiti actor is one of the few who take time to do children shows and is widely admired. Children recognise his "friendly Jassem" in the non-stop serial "Open Sesame" which is based on lines from the famous "Sesame Street". In it, he advises and encourages children to learn in a gradual manner and provides guidelines to pronunciation.

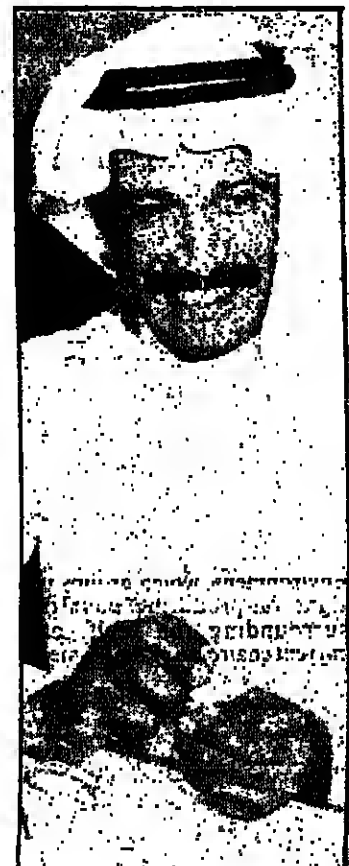
He admitted that his latest serial last Ramadan, "The Greedy" was not successful and speaking candidly said: "This serial was a disaster and I hesitated to take the role of the greedy man but TV authorities convinced the actors to add a touch of personal flavour, and it would be a success. However, sadly it was not."

In his radio programme "Children's Corner" children call him "Baba Jassem" where he invites them to join him at the studio and tells them fairy tales. Jassem's style is to reach out to children in a simple manner so that children of all ages can enter the wonderful life of imaginary characters.

His spontaneous response to children while acting on stage grows higher and higher as the character engulfs his personality. His last role on stage for children was this year in "Fish and Fisherman," might mention that I have seen my niece drifting into a world of her own while watching him in this programme with intense interest.

Favourites

Jassem's favourite type of acting in on stage. He feels the stage is where his roots are and takes time from his schedule to go back again and again to perform. He began his acting career on stage as a hobby at the tender age of 14 at school. In 1964 he joined the Popular Theatre working back stage and gradually got involved until he became a stage actor and director. Since then and up to 1968, he attended lessons imparted by Zaki Tullimmat, the well known Egyptian stage actor and director. He attributes his success to Tullimmat and was honoured with a certificate from Tullimmat for his role in "Raas Al Mamlouk" in 1975 in Egypt. However, it was not until 1984 when he played his best role on stage in "Dakat Al Sa'a" that Jassem was on his way to success.



He feels that many a time the essence of stage is lost in commercial productions and the message to the audience is quite contradictory to social values. Young audiences are treated to today's trends and many short stories or parts about the Kuwaiti heritage lose their appeal to these trends. So youngsters are left with no knowledge of their country's beautiful heritage.

Essence

About acting he said, an acting career is very tiring. Jassem does not contradict himself with the character.

Jassem who performed more than 50 roles on stage, has the lion's share of radio programmes, such as Cultural Encyclopedia, Top Stars, Bedouin Serials and Window of History.

Jassem who sounded serious when asked why he does not act in Kuwaiti films, replied that he would not mind acting in a Kuwaiti film but that would depend on the script, finance and good location.

He added that three Kuwaiti films were produced and all had the same stories, though our

heritage is full of different episodes. Jassem said that he is working on some serials, but declined to give details saying that they are intended as a surprise for TV spectators.

Jassem with deep brown eyes, wheatish complexion, good looks and composed character is now 45 years old. He is married and has three sons and four daughters. He does not wear a wedding ring and commented that he attributes it to the habit of taking the ring off while acting. So eventually, he got into the habit of taking it off completely instead of wearing it. A heavy smoker he admitted that he can stop for a couple of months. He loves wearing classical suits outside Kuwait and believes in the evil-eye. He drives an old Buick 81 and turns deaf when told to change his car for a new one. Jassem feels young at heart even though his eldest son is married.

Likes and dislikes

Being a typical Leo, he loves his home. He is also fond of the sea and feels at home when is on a boat as he enjoys cooking fish with rice. He is not possessive and encourages his wife in the art of acting. He disclosed that his wife is the Kuwaiti actress Latifa Al Faraj. Besides, his love for boat outings, he said that he spends his holidays in Germany where he enjoys nature, weather and the company of his friends.

Queried on his dislikes, Jassem cited the heavy demands of Kuwaiti women on husbands. He further added that women here ignore their husbands after having their first child. He added that many Kuwaiti women are usually over dressed and blindly copy Western fashions. On males, he said that he dislikes Kuwaiti men who seem more intent on being seen in flashy cars with girlfriends and wasting their time, instead of building a future.

What irritates him the most, he said that most of these youngsters cannot afford the car or the girlfriend.

Jassem said that he believes in equality between women and men and that women are not less capable than men. However, he added that traditions sometimes hinder women from taking up more challenging jobs. He said that he is against the idea of marrying at a young age as it usually ends up with divorce. He added that the best age for marriages is above 24 for both men and women in which they can shoulder more responsibilities.

Kuwaiti couple arrested

SECURITY personnel of the Hawali Governorate arrested a Kuwaiti national identified as A.S. along with his Kuwaiti wife identified as N.H. for illegally accommodating 24 infiltrators in their home.

Police had been notified that the accused were transporting infiltrators by sea to Kuwait and providing them with shelter and low paid jobs. A close

surveillance of their residence was posted and on confirming the information, a raid was carried out.

However, the two defendants tried to flee by sea in their boat, but were apprehended by the Coast Guards.

Investigations are in progress to determine the exact number of infiltrators, the two accused brought into the country.

Meanwhile, security auth-

Miskari receives

RIYADH, April 9. (Kuna): Gulf Co-operation Council assistant secretary-general for political affairs Saif Bin Hashel Al Miskari conferred here recently with Ireland's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, a press release by the GCC secretariat-general said.

It added relations between the GCC states and Ireland, progress of joint negotiations between the GCC and EEC as well as current Mideast developments, topped by the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Palestine, were discussed.

New istimara rules from May

THE General Traffic Administration (GTA) will begin applying the new rules and restrictions pertaining to the issuance of istimaras for driving licences as from 1st May this year, according to a local daily which added that no applications for this purpose will be entertained prior to that date.

Meanwhile, security auth-

orities continued investigations into about 100 persons accused of being involved in paying bribes to obtain istimaras and authorities believe that further investigations are expected to involve many more culprits.

Those arrested at the moment have been kept in judicial custody in police centres at Sharq.

Al Madina and Al Salhiya. All the defendants were arrested last week.

These defendants will be investigated after investigations are thoroughly completed into the cases of the main defendants. Authorities said that all expatriate defendants are liable to face administrative deportation if convicted.

هكذا من الاموال

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HUMAN history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe — H.G. Wells, English writer-historian (1866-1946).

Moscow-Seoul courtship

North Korea feels jilted

MOSCOW, (Reuters): The flirtation between the Soviet Union and capitalist South Korea has blossomed into romance and die-hard communist North Korea feels jilted.

Trade is booming and diplomatic envoys issue visas from commercial offices.

In 1983 Soviet fighters shot down a Korean Boeing 747 which strayed into Soviet air space, killing all 269 people on board. Last month Aeroflot and Korean Air Lines put that behind them and started regular flights between Moscow and Seoul.

Only Soviet consideration for North Korea, the 1945 creation of Josef Stalin's Kremlin, prevents the establishment of full diplomatic relations between one of Asia's biggest economies and the stirring giant to the north.

Seoul has been pressing for years for recognition from Moscow, perhaps in tandem with US recognition of Pyongyang.

Relations

Senior southern politician Kim Young-Sam returned from Moscow last month March saying President Mikhail Gorbachev had told him there were no obstacles to full relations.

But the Kremlin still seems wary of angering Kim Il-Sung's absolutist government, though it has fewer qualms now about letting its real feelings be known.

"It is understood in North Korea that the Soviet Union should and must have relations with South Korea," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitsikh told reporters on Friday.

"The question of diplomatic relations is not a priority for either side at the moment. But there are opportunities for the development of practical relations," he added, citing as an example the issuing of visas. "This is a very good starting point and this can be continued."

"It will take some time, I believe," said Gyeong Ro-Myung, South Korea's chief envoy — he has the service rank of ambassador, but his title is head of consular department.

"They say they cannot afford to completely sever ties with North Korea and they need time to persuade their ally. We want to see the two Koreas coexist in peace."

Others think things will move more quickly.

"It is my personal opinion that we will not have to wait long (for diplomatic relations)," said Vladimir Vorontsov, editor of the magazine Problemy Dal'nogo Vostoka (Problems of the Far East).

Recognise

"We cannot but recognise a country which has become one of the 10 most developed in the world."

But North Korea remains one of the few communist countries to resist the winds of change unleashed by Gorbachev.

An angry editorial in the official daily Rodong Sinmun on Friday blasted its southern rival for trying to cosy up to Moscow and added: "It is unthinkable on a normal orbit that the Soviet Union will involve itself in the 'two Koreas' policy of recognising South Korean intervention of basic principle."

Meanwhile Moscow-Seoul ties are growing, apparently unhampered by the lack of a formal relationship.

Trade was \$600 million in 1989, more than double the previous year. Gong said it was expected to top \$1 billion this year. More important from Moscow's point of view, the balance was heavily in the Soviet Union's favour.

Gyeong's five consular staff operate from the offices of a commercial company in a Moscow hotel. But they have diplomatic protection and in February they issued their first visa, to Moscow University rector Anatoly Logunov.

Cultural and scientific ties are also growing. Posters advertising the impending tour of a South Korean folk dance group are on display in Moscow.

Different

The Soviet media have also begun to project a different view of the divided peninsula after proclaiming unstinting Kremlin support for Kim Il-Sung during his long years of confrontation with the US-backed South, including the 1950-53 Korean War.

Now, while radio and television and the more formal publications stick to a dead-pan image of fraternal, socialist relations with North Korea, independent-minded newspapers are free to criticise.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1552 — France's King Henry II captures Metz and aligns with German Protestants.

1694 — Savoy's duke Victor Amadeus begins siege of Casala in Italy.

1741 — Prussia's Frederick II defeats Austrian forces at Mollwitz and conquers Silesia.

1832 — French law excludes families of Charles X and Napoleon from France; Turkey declares war on Mohammed Ali, Khedive of Egypt.

1864 — Archduke Maximilian of Austria accepts title of Emperor of Mexico.

1898 — France obtains concession in China.

1932 — Paul von Hindenburg is reelected German president over Adolf Hitler.

1945 — US troops liberate Nazi concentration camp at Buchwald, Germany.

1952 — Soviet Union proposes all-German elections be held under a four-power commission instead of under United Nations supervision and rejects west's views on Germany's frontiers.

1961 — Adolf Eichmann, former Nazi, is put on trial as war criminal in an Israeli court in Occupied Jerusalem.

1963 — US atomic submarine Thresher fails to surface after a deep dive in the Northern Atlantic with the loss of 129 lives — the worst submarine disaster in US history.

1972 — United States and Soviet Union sign treaty banning biological warfare.

1976 — Israel goes ahead with elections in occupied West Bank of Jordan despite rioting.

1986 — United States conducts nuclear test in Nevada desert despite growing protests among peace groups and strong Soviet campaign for nuclear test ban.

1987 — 151-nation International Monetary Fund wraps up spring meeting without producing any new initiatives.

1989 — British and Australian forces arrive in northern Namibia to monitor planned withdrawal of black nationalist guerrillas.

Peres could advance talks

Palestinians pin hopes on him

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Many Palestinian leaders say Israeli Prime Minister-designate Shimon Peres can push stalled Arab-Israeli peace efforts forward if he succeeds in forming a government this week.

Arabs in the occupied territories, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, voice general distrust of Israeli leaders' peace intentions but say the Labour Party is a more likely negotiating partner than the right-wing Likud.

"A new government led by Peres would be a serious first step towards promoting peace," said Sari Nusseibeh, a leading Palestinian nationalist in the West Bank.

Nusseibeh says he believes proposed Palestinian-Israeli peace talks in Cairo could take place weeks after the establishment of a government led by Labour.

Peres last month toppled a coalition government led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the right-wing premier's refusal to endorse US proposals for the unprecedented talks.

Labour leaders say Peres now enjoys the support of at least 61 deputies, enough to give him a parliamentary majority when he submits his government for approval on Wednesday.

For the first time in the 42-year Arab-Israeli conflict, many Palestinian and Israeli leaders appear close to a common view of the need to negotiate a peace settlement.

Unlike any previous government, a Peres-led cabinet would include those who support trading land for peace and some form of negotiation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), officially outlawed by Israel as a terrorist organisation.

Peres, in a scathing attack on Likud leaders a week before the coalition collapsed, said it was unrealistic to think the PLO could be excluded from peace efforts.

The new government is likely to include Ezer Weizman, Moshe Shahal and Yossi Beilin, who openly advocate talks with the PLO.

Palestinians say that their 28-month revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has brought down many barriers that separated Palestinians and Israelis for decades.

They say Israelis now concede the need to negotiate with Palestinians instead of Jordan, as Labour previously advocated.

Strengthened by the uprising, Palestinian leaders feel enough confidence to voice support for Peres in his bid to form a new government next week.

In an unprecedented step PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said on Thursday he had asked seven Arab members of the Israeli Parliament to support Peres' bid to secure a parliamentary majority for his government.



Peres has Palestinian backing

though more cautious, have also courted the Labour Party.

"If Israelis change their attitudes (towards Palestinians) they will find that for every step they take there will be a Palestinian one," Faisal Al Hussaini, one of the most senior pro-PLO figures in the occupied territories, told Israelis two weeks ago.

Refugees await peace in Zimbabwe

TONGOGARA CAMP, Zimbabwe, (Reuters): From behind a six-foot (1.8 metre) high barbed wire fence, a group of Mozambican refugees stare out at the bleached scrubland around their new home in neighbouring Zimbabwe.

Beyond the fence, two Zimbabwean women tramp down the pale dust road without turning their heads to look at the tattered refugee camp children waving through the coils of wire.

Fences built around refugee camps by the Harare government since 1988 have come to symbolise the growing hostility between 80,000 Mozambicans who fled here to escape civil war at home and the Zimbabweans who took them in.

"(The fence) was put up for their own protection," said Tongogara Camp's deputy administrator, Alexander Somo. "At least this way we can monitor things so there is no basis for complaint."

Government officials decided to fence in the camps dotted along the border with Mozambique after Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas said in 1987 they would attack Zimbabwean targets.

Hundreds of Zimbabweans along the eastern border have been killed in raids by the insurgents, blamed in their own country for carrying out attacks on civilians.

The state news agency Zina quoted police as saying Mozambican camp inmates also turned bandit by night, terrorised local people, and harboured guerrillas infiltrating.

Police say that since 1986 refugees have been involved in 208 offences, including stock theft, housebreaking, rape, murder and vandalism.

Tongogara camp administrator David Mlambo said press reports of refugee violence were exaggerated and the fence was built "just to make sure everything is secure."

"It wasn't because of a security problem," he said, adding that any such problems probably occurred at other camps at Nyangombe, Nyamankito or Mazowe River. He said inmates of Tongogara were not allowed out into Zimbabwe.

Asked if people from Tongogara ever slipped out on night raids, he shrugged and said: "Once in a while, OK."

"The country of asylum has responsibility for the security of refugees, and it's their prerogative to take the measures it considers necessary," said Zimbabwe's representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Godfrey Sabiti.

Permission

He said the UNHCR understood refugees were allowed out of the camps if they had permission to collect firewood or go to the nearest village.

Over 40,000 people are now penned up at Tongogara, built for 15,000. They say they have enough to eat, adequate sanitary and health care and are safe from the war.

Mjurias Zacarias, a refugee whose weather-beaten face is topped by a battered peaked cap, said

he was happy at Tongogara. "It's safe here, and they feed me," he said. "I only want to go home if there's peace."

But overcrowding and forced inactivity make the camps a breeding-ground for psychological problems, according to a report presented to a January refugee conference in Harare.

G.C. Sithole, administrator of Mazowe River camp, said juvenile delinquency, alcoholism and mental illness were all features of camp life.

More than a million Mozambicans have escaped into neighbouring countries from the MNR. Zimbabwe, which has a long common frontier with inland Mozambique speak Shona, the language of many Zimbabweans. The two governments have ties of friendship going back to the 1970s, when both were resistance movements fighting to end colonial rule.

However, the bulk of refugees — about 800,000 of them — have trekked north to Malawi, where Mozambicans now make up a tenth of the population.

Freedom

US Ambassador for Refugees Jewel Lafontant, visiting Tongogara on a tour of camps, said the physical conditions in Malawi were far worse than those in Zimbabwe, but that refugees in Malawi had complete freedom of movement and were accepted as a part of the local community.

"I was very impressed by the generosity of the Malawians," she added.

Letters to the editor

Political systems

SIR: All political systems operate within the dynamics in which they were conceived and the basic assumptions of their ideological foundations. A progressive political system functions analogous to the healthy living cells in a body: it generates vitality, energy, and infuses energetic flexibility in the progressive potency of its competence to the changing political environment. Progressive systems mold, change, absorb, expand, and function with commendable efficacious impacts. On the contrary, ineffective political systems operate the same way as unhealthy cells function: they multiply sick cells and offer unending resistance to living vigour. In fact, such systems suffer from body politics: actively impaired deficiency syndrome. BP-Aids. They are toxic and are bound in an agonizing death. In politics, the prevalence of endless status quo is symptomatic of such a scenario.

Is contemporary Pakistan suffering from BP-Aids? Some existing variables suggest that such an illness is rampant. However, there are also some signs of the recovery of a long-term ailing body-politics. We shall examine these scenarios with tactical rationalization and abstain from the application of emotional prescriptions. Let us look at some of the internal problems.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has indicated her preference to conduct education in the different provinces in their local languages. This step seems to have created a whirlpool effect in various political circles. The advocates of Urdu as a national language are deeply concerned. Their future political concerns and good intentions are quite understandable. They view Urdu as a national unifying force in the solidarity of Pakistan, just the same way as they consider Islam a unifying ideology. However, the issue of education in local languages is not quite so simple.

Extension
A language is an extension of the genetic being of a person as well as an identification of the societal being. It is through genetic cognization of language at the early stages of human life that we all develop our perceptions, understandings, and relationships with the society and the universe in which we live. An imposed language of a non-genetic origin in early schooling stages contradicts the fundamental precepts and dynamics of perceptual cognization, making learning difficult, and consequently implanting aggression-frustration feelings in the target population. Hence, the present level of expressed dissatisfaction

with not using the local regional languages as the medium of instruction and the associated aggression-frustration on the part of the provinces is quite rational.

Benazir's willingness to allow basic educational instruction in regional languages is indicative of her desire to let the Pakistani political system become more flexible and open up to the noetic demands of an evolving process requiring some conceptual and policy oriented changes. It is a healthy sign. However, Urdu will have to continue as the national language. Also there is always the option to fall back on Urdu should the new experiment with regional languages fail to realize the desired goals. But to remain steadfast and pursue the status quo on the basis of the fear of failing is symptomatic of the body-politics actively impaired deficiency syndrome (BP-Aids). The Pakistani political system has to acquire energetic vitality to reject notions based on unfounded fears and neurosis. Indeed, the foremost and the fundamental issue in Pakistan is to shake up the institution of feudalism. It is this institution which is at the core of Pakistan's problematic. The truth is that the political power in Pakistan has been intrinsically rooted in feudal institutions since independence and this power has considerably increased with time. A progressive Pakistani polity cannot originate unless feudalistic institutional powers are drastically cut.

Allment

Another indicator of the acute BP-Aids ailment is Pakistan's bureaucracy. Bureaucratic psychic, by its very nature, breeds stagnation and abhors swift changes; bureaucrats are overly obsessed by the notions of rules, procedures, and legality and they relentlessly pursue the expansion of their power with the aim to maintain power-relations tied in their favour. Consequently, bureaucratic institutions in a country like Pakistan are more or less at odds with democratic processes which target relinquishing and relaxation of controls aimed at altering power-relations in favour of the public.

Another major source of Pakistan's BP-Aids ailment is the institutional power that the army has come to attain and exercise in the political affairs of the country. It seems that the prime minister has made several political decisions on the advice of the army. Foremost of these decisions is the continuation of Pakistan's Afghan policy. Another questionable decision has been the much publicized and exuberantly expansive Zarb-e Momen military exercises. The government maintained that Zarb-e Momen was aimed at testing new weapons and military prepared-

ness. In the first place, an army must always be prepared; secondly, Pakistan does not have the kind of weapon system that has not been tested before. Zarb-e Momen was a political-military exercise that cost the nation a great deal of unnecessary expense; from a public deprivation perspective these military exercises were counter-productive. It has also been observed, an amazing phenomenon by itself, that the elected government in Islamabad has been inordinately expressing gratitude to the armed forces for not interfering in the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. The fundamental question is: Is this symptomatic of the neurosis of Pakistani democracy or has the elected government come to realize that the cancerous growth of military-political power in the BP-Aids ailment of Pakistan is hard to dispense with and is here to stay?

Dr Haider Mehdi
Shawalkh.

Naked cheating

SIR: I am a regular reader of Arab Times and a keen follower of your 'Day by Day' column.

The Almighty Allah has ordained in the Holy Quran payment for services rendered, but this has gone unheeded to.

My colleagues and I have been working for Kuwait Airways for the past eight years as aircraft cleaners on a salary scale of KD 180/- per month. On Mar 14, 1987 Kuwait Airways transferred us to Kaseco and the Kaseco management asked us to sign the contract papers on a salary scale of KD 101/- per month. This is obviously a pittance considering the high cost of living in Kuwait.

In spite of our experience, we receive the same salary as the newly recruited workers. We've now completed three years and not a single fils has been added to our salary.

We passionately appeal to the authorities responsible to do something about our plight.

A downhearted,
(Name & address supplied).

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Cuban public opinion hard to assess

HAVANA, (AP): Did the Americans play into Fidel Castro's hands by starting TV broadcasts to Cuba, giving him a credible new complaint about US imperialism, or has jamming the telecasts increased hostility among his people?

Judging public opinion in a relatively closed country like Cuba is a highly speculative undertaking.

Cubans would like a more varied TV menu, but no one knows for sure what they think of the Voice of America operation, known as TV Marti. For that matter, estimates of support for the revolution itself after 31 years differ wildly.

Like Radio Marti, another Voice of America venture, TV Marti's purpose is to provide balanced news and entertainment to a country where the US government says both are in short supply.

Listener

There is broad disagreement about how many listeners Radio Marti has after five years. One dissident described the audience as "massive," but Havana officials call it trifling.

There are no reliable polls of public sentiment in Cuba. Some people wonder whether Castro is as oblivious to the public mood as were the Eastern European leaders ousted by popular uprising last year.

Cuban officials insist they have mechanisms that ensure people an opportunity to complain publicly without fear.

In the Regla section of Havana last Monday, local leaders heard dozens of complaints from hundreds of citizens.

Gripes were aired about the transportation system and the uneven distribution of goods to neighbourhood stores. Similar meetings were held this past week all over the island.

How durable is the revolution? Can Castro make viable a system that is being reviled in other places that tried it?

A leader of the young communist league on Tuesday night predicted, somewhat extravagantly, that his group would still be functioning in 28,000 years.

Discontent

Two days later, a leader of a human rights group predicted, no less extravagantly, that popular discontent resulting from economic hardship will bring Castro down in less than a year.

Whatever the truth, Castro is going all out to use the TV Marti issue to rally support.

There is little doubt many Cubans agree with him that the broadcasts, which began March 27, violate national sovereignty.

TV Marti, Castro says, is a "gross instrument of subversion." Naming the station after the hero of Cuba's independence struggle, he says, is like an American naming a house of prostitution for George Washington.

Boredom is a constant companion for many Cubans, however. They are intensely curious about what kind of programming TV Marti would bring and are disappointed by the successful jamming efforts.

Results

The question is, how many are in each camp? The only known instance of a test, albeit limited, of public sentiment occurred in an east Havana neighbourhood a year ago. The results were not encouraging for the government.

A human rights activist, Roberto Bahamonde, ran for a municipal assembly seat as a proponent of a free press, free speech and free enterprise — heretical views in Marxist Cuba.

He lost 60-30, but there were 59 abstentions in the show-of-hands vote. Presumably, many who abstained were closet Bahamonde supporters who felt voting for him openly could lead to charges of disloyalty.

The establishment candidate, Gerardo Aldama, won slightly more than 40 per cent of the vote, virtually the same as president Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua in his losing re-election campaign in February.

Bahamonde was arrested two weeks after election night and won't be free until July. The government says his detention is based on participation in illegal meetings and on economic crimes rather than his political stands.

QUOTE ME

"We are ready to talk with the United States on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocal benefit, quality and sovereignty. We have to resolve with the United States the problem of the occupation of a part of Cuban territory. Now that it is in fashion to withdraw foreign troops from other countries ... the United States must do the same thing with Cuba. We do not have any desire for US troops to remain on Cuban territory." — Cuban deputy foreign minister, Ramon Sanchez on the removal of a US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"One longs for the mountains and the sea. The country is rich and beautiful and the people are so terrific. I don't know how the people have kept their incredible tenderness, courage and compassion." An exiled South African jazz musician in America yearning for South Africa.

"I was really disappointed with my back nine. I had hoped to get into a position to feel comfortable on the back stretch and really enjoy the win. Instead, I got quite concerned. That back nine was the longest two hours of my life." — Betty King after winning the Dinah Shore Women's Golf Tournament.

"The king, in placing his conscience above the respect of Parliament and democratic vote, has committed a very dangerous act. The very role of the king is now open to question." — Le Soir newspaper castigating the Belgian king for refusing to sign into law the legalisation of abortion.

"They noted that since their last meeting, economic growth has slowed down in several countries, toward more sustainable rhythms. Nevertheless, the prospects for global economic growth remain good, with dynamic investment, that is solidly supporting the economy, weak inflation and greater exchange rate stability." — A G-7 finance ministers' statement on world economy.

"We have information that Escobar Gaviria is trying to leave the country. He is looking for a document with a false name, so we have alerted all airport authorities. We have informed the international police to stop him from fleeing the different authorities, inside the country and abroad." Vargas Silva, Colombian national police chief on the escape plans of Medellin drug cartel boss Escobar after killing 20 police officers.

"It is Prague 1968 all over the place. There is no political dialogue is going on now. You don't meet (Lithuanian leaders) with AK-47 guns. We have suffered so long and so much we would go for any measures which could bring us liberty. But we would prefer not to use the violence." — A Lithuanian leader on events in the republic.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Iran signs natural gas protocol with Soviet Union

ATHENS, April 9, (UPI): Iran will resume the export of its natural gas to the Soviet Union, after an 11-year break, under a new protocol signed yesterday, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Under the protocol, signed in Tehran, Iran is due to export 3 billion cubic metres of gas a year to the Soviet Union, but the volume could be boosted to 10 billion cubic metres, an Iran dispatch monitored in Athens said.

The news agency did not say when the gas would start flowing across the Iran-Soviet border, but an earlier report said the exports would be resumed in the next few days.

Iran exported 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year to the Soviets during the regime of the late Shah between 1970 and 1979, but the spigot was turned off on the Iranian side of the border in 1979 after Ayatollah Khomeini assumed power.

Khomeini argued that Moscow was not paying enough for the gas. The Soviets, who have the largest proven reserves of natural gas in the world, agreed to terminate a deal they signed with the Shah, rather than pay more.

But in June last year, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed in a meeting with Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Moscow that the Kremlin would pay prices based on those available on the world market.

This ended the 11-year dispute, and the past few months were spent ironing out a price formula and making technical preparations for a resumption of the gas sales.

Regional analysts said Moscow's decision to start buying Iranian gas again, even though it had an abundant supply of its own, was politically motivated, not commercially.

Iran will use its gas sales to pay for Soviet goods and services needed to

implement the current 5-year development plan, running from 1989 to 1994. Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Iran expects to earn some \$300 million a year from the gas sales.

Through accounting arrangements, this money will be paid back to the Soviet Union for its technical assistance to Iran in the building of several dams and power stations, boosting the capacity of the Isfahan steel mill, and

other projects.

The Soviet Union has managed to improve its relations with Iran, after a dip during the 8-year Gulf war, while Tehran's ties with the United States and Britain remained disrupted.

The protocol signed Sunday followed the arrival in Tehran on Thursday of a delegation of officials from the state-owned Soviet Sayuzgazeksprom Company and the Gas Industry Ministry in Moscow.

Migrants have hard job hunt in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 9, (Reuters): Yuri Melman was a mathematics professor before he left Leningrad for a new life in Israel. Now he drives a taxi.

Soviet Jewish immigrants pouring in daily are eager, hard-working and educated. But with unemployment at a two-decade high, job-hunting is a daunting experience.

In the struggle for survival, the only alternative may be to abandon one's credentials. Some 50 highly educated Soviet Jews are packing fruit in boxes for export in the town of Rehovot. Another 60 are working in a textile factory near the city of Ashdod.

"In Kiryat Yam, Soviet doctors are sweeping the streets," said David Menna, director-general of Israel's employment service.

Difficult

At the canteen of the Jewish agency, a quasi state body which promotes immigration, one of the tea ladies was a doctor in Siberia two months ago.

"Soviet Jews know it's difficult to find work here because of unemployment and the economic situation so they agree to work at any job we can provide," Menna told Reuters.

Israel's 8.9 per cent unemployment rate is the highest since the 10 per cent registered just before the 1967 six day war and the economy is stagnant. The rate was 6.4 per cent in 1988.

Unemployment is likely to rise further in the coming months, Labour Ministry officials said. For every job in physics there are 61 candidates. Twelve biologists queue for each laboratory opening. There are seven doctors and seven electrical engineers for each position. Four university professors compete for each teaching job.

Meanwhile, platoons of Soviet nuclear physicists, biochemists and geophysicists arrive in the Jewish state daily.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said: "7,300 Soviet immigrants arrived in March, taking the total so far this year to more than 18,000."

Only 10 per cent are unskilled, the Labour Ministry said. Sixty per cent have professional or technical qualifications.

But many have very specific skills for which there is no market in Israel — such as ice engineers and fur engineers.

Officials expect about 100,000 Soviet immigrants to arrive this year. Some 750,000 are expected in the next five years — the biggest wave of immigration in 30 years.

While the exodus has alarmed Palestinians and the Arab world, Israeli leaders enthusiastically welcome the newcomers, saying they will enrich the country with their culture and skills and inject life into the stagnant economy.

"This Aliya (immigration) is like a blessing from heaven. It is the fulfilment of the Biblical prophecy... they are a good element — motivated, patriotic, constructive and productive," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said recently.

The need to build 30,000 homes for the immigrants fuelled heated debate when legislators voted on a new budget for the fiscal year starting April 1. Parliament added a last-minute \$100 million allocation for housing.

But some officials said the government should have worried about employment first.

"It's a real problem... the priority should be employment then housing," Menna said.

Rafael Minkin, head of the central bank's research department, said the biggest challenge was to harness the immigrants' skills to further the country's already overmaned public sector.

"There is a big question mark over whether the business community will rise to the challenge," he told Reuters.

The Soviet Jews usually spend six months in intensive Hebrew language programmes before beginning their job hunt.

KD interbank deposit rates
KUWAIT, April 9, (Reuters): Short dates on the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market were well offered this morning, dealers said, and eased as a result.

Overnight earlier dealt at 7-1/2 per cent, while spot/next dealt at 8-1/4-8-1/8 and later at 7-7/8.

Little activity was reported in fixed rates, as the market awaited the weekly treasury bill issue, although dealers said that three months to one year were slightly firmer.

Central banks prop up ailing yen

LONDON, April 9, (Reuters): The Central banks of West Germany, Britain and Switzerland sold dollars for yen in early European trading today to prop up the Japanese currency, which opened firmer but then faltered slightly, dealers said.

When the intervention occurred, the currency market had been trying to gauge how deeply the Group of Seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — were committed to helping the ailing Japanese currency.

G-7 finance ministers said after a meeting in Paris yesterday that the yen's current weakness was undesirable, but currency dealers said in initial reaction that they saw little sign of an intervention pact to support the yen.

The Bank of Japan had sold dollars for yen intermittently in morning Asian trading today.

The yen opened in Europe at 156.70 to the dollar and 1.0810 marks per 100 yen today after closing on Friday at 157.25 yen per dollar in London and 1.0765 marks per hundred yen in Frankfurt.

But it eased back slightly in early trading and the Central banks intervened. By 0900 GMT, less than half an hour after the intervention started, the yen was quoted at 156.72 to the dollar and 1.0782 marks per 100.

After yesterday's meeting in Paris, which lasted almost eight hours, the G-7 ministers and Central Banks sent a coded message in their final communiqué that they would intervene on currency markets to support yen and they pledged to "keep developments under review."

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday that the group of seven industrial countries' (G7) weekend meeting proved that the sliding yen was unfavourable.

Hashimoto told the Japanese parliament (Diet), the G-7 showed their concern that the unstable yen would stand in the way of efforts for correcting the foreign trade imbalance and prevent the easy flow of money.

US dollar declines

PARIS, April 9, (Kuna): The US dollar declined to 5.6850 francs, at the opening of bank transactions here today, from 5.7010 at the closing last Friday.

The pound sterling was traded at 9.33 francs from 9.3590, the Deutsche mark at 3.3590 from 3.3612, the Swiss franc at 3.7980 from 3.8000, the Belgian franc at 16.25 from 16.253, for 100 Belgian francs, and the Japanese yen at 3.6250 from 3.6255, for 100 yen.

Gold was quoted at \$381.96 an ounce.

KD foreign exchange rate

GENEVA, April 9, (Kuna): At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 5.0908 Swiss francs, as against 5.0931 at the close of trading last Friday, the Swiss-Kuwaiti Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.7526 (5.7706), the pound sterling 2.0730 (2.0765), Japanese yen 532.0417 (536.2066), and the US dollar 3.4022 (3.3999).

US dollar declines sharply against yen

Tokyo share prices surge

TOKYO, April 9, (AP): The US dollar closed sharply lower against the Japanese yen today, helping to push the Tokyo Stock Exchange's key index above 30,000 points for the first time since late March.

The dollar closed at 156.45 yen, down 1.02 yen from Friday's close of 157.47 yen. It opened at 155.80 yen and then rose, trading between 155.60 yen and 156.90 yen during the day.

Boosted by the yen's recovery, the 225-share Nikkei stock average rose 1,119.15 points, or 3.82 per cent, to close at 30,397.93, its fourth largest single-day advance ever. The Nikkei last closed above 30,000 points on March 29, when it ended the day at 31,026.16.

The advance extended a rebound begun last Friday, when the Nikkei index rose 1,029.72 points in its fifth-largest single-day advance.

The US currency opened lower in Tokyo after wildly fluctuating between 155.50-159.50 in oceanian markets, mainly Sydney, that opened earlier than Tokyo, dealers said.

Gatt nations begin talks

In-depth review

GENEVA, April 9, (UPI): World trading nations began an in-depth review today of problems besetting the Uruguay round trade liberalisation talks due to end in December but lagging well behind schedule.

They started by exchanging charges in a negotiating group on goods on which is blocking progress and how they should improve access to their markets and cease unfair practices like subsidising exports, participating officials said.

The group deals with all forms of trade except for service industries like banking, insurance and shipping. After that "clearing of the air," the officials said, the main supervisory Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) would meet tomorrow to draw up a list of what must be done to push the talks forward.

The review meeting would end either Tuesday evening or Wednesday, they said.

Trade ministers of the biggest Western and Third World countries are to meet in Mexico April 19 and 20 and theoretically produce fresh ideas for the negotiators in Geneva so several deadlocks can be broken.

Aimed at cutting trade restrictions by an average 30 per cent, the talks were launched in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, at the end of 1986 by members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Initial draft records on the various issues from basic import tariffs to farm trade and services are supposed to be ready by end-July so a final package is ready for a ministerial conference in Brussels in December.

But the Uruguay round is as much as one year behind in some areas and GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel has warned for some time that high-level policy decisions are needed fast if it is not to fall far short of objectives.

There are major arguments between the advanced nations themselves and between the industrial and the developing countries. Some of the biggest:

■ Washington demands the European Economic Community phase out farm export subsidies by a complicated formula to calculate their value in terms of import duties which could be reduced and eliminated. That is rejected as "unrealistic" by the EEC.

■ The United States and other industrial nations want Japan to be far more generous in offers made so far to open up Japanese markets for industrial as well as agricultural products.

■ The EEC insists on steps to prevent Japanese "dumping" of goods either made in Japan or assembled in plants in Europe and ranging from cars to computers.

■ Large agricultural exporters gathered in the so-called Cairns group and including Australia, Argentina and Canada want better access everywhere for their products.

■ The World producers of textiles and XXX advanced-nation import quotas under the multi-fibre arrangement.

■ Developing countries producing tropical products demand preferential treatment for those goods.

They said the dollar fell because of expectations of central bank intervention to prop up the faltering Japanese yen in the wake of talks among economic policymakers of the major industrialised nations, known as the Group of Seven, in Paris this weekend.

Monetary authorities from Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States agreed on Saturday that the yen's recent downswing in world currency markets could have "undesirable consequences."

They also promised to keep the exchange markets "under review" and renewed their commitment to co-ordinate economic policies, including co-operation on exchange markets.

Nihon Keizai Shimbun, leading Japanese economic journal, reported on its front page this morning that central banks from G-7 would conduct co-ordinated dollar-selling interventions during today's trading to support the yen.

The dollar, which traded at 143.40 yen at the end of last year, surged almost 20 yen during the last three months to 160 yen before falling back slightly.

Many analysts believe, however, that some G-7 countries are reluctant to help Japan prop up its currency because they see the yen's weakness as a domestic problem. Expectations of possible intervention to curb the dollar's rise have been a factor in today's trading to support the yen.

The rebound in prices on the Stock Exchange after three months of almost continual decline was directly linked to the yen's surge against the dollar, traders said.

The Nikkei average has declined over 20 per cent, or 8,517.94 points, since the end of last year.

Kozo Hasunuma, a trader with Yamaichi Securities Co. attributed the index's surge today to a G-7 statement that stressed the importance of the yen's stability, which he said reassured stock investors.

The index's increase slowed down in the afternoon when some market players sold issues for profit-taking, but as a whole, their buying incentive was strong throughout the day," he said.

An estimated 800 million shares changed hands in one of the most active trading days in recent weeks.

In bond dealings, the price of the benchmark No. 119 Japanese government bond closed at 86.73 points, up from Friday's close of 86.38, as bond investors were reassured by the yen's strength against the dollar. The No. 199's yield fell to 7.205 per cent from 7.275 per cent on Friday.

Meanwhile, Bank of Japan governor Yasuhiro Mieno told a news conference today that the yen's weakness was due to speculation and that speculative pressure in the market would be met by co-ordinated G-7 action.

He emphasised that the Paris G-7 meeting was the first in which the yen was specifically mentioned in the communiqué.

West Germany has launched plans to create an economic union with East Germany on the road to German unification.

Concern has been raised among some West Germans that the costs of unification could prove to be a heavy economic burden, including tax increases.

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West Germany's economic, legal and tax systems will have to be adopted by East Germany, the newspaper quoted the institutes as saying in a joint report.



Trading signs

Stock brokers get tangled up with their trading signs at the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday as shares rose sharply on a stronger yen after a Group of Seven Nations (G-7) meeting on Saturday agreed to prop up the currency. Shares surged 1,119.15 points to close at 30,397.93. (Reuters wirephoto)

Oil prices lower Opec output highest

NICOSIA, April 9, (Reuters): Crude oil output by 13 Opec member states reached 24.09 million barrels per day (bpd) in March, the highest since 1981, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported.

The MEES estimated for March Opec production is marginally higher than last year's monthly peak of 24.0 million bpd recorded in December, as against \$19.10 in February and \$19.99 in January," MEES said.

MEES said Opec's total output was 23.620 million bpd in February and 23.320 million bpd in January, which put first quarter average output at 23.660 million bpd.

The biggest increase in March came from Iran where output reached 3.15 million bpd compared to its 3.14 million Opec quota level, from 2.8 million in February.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait, which claim their Opec quotas are small compared with their requirements, produced an average of two million bpd (Opec quota 1.095 million bpd) and 1.83 million (Opec quota 1.5 million bpd) respectively in the first quarter of 1990, accounting for two-thirds of Opec's excess output.

based on the same basket, is \$18 per barrel. "According to Opec calculations made available to MEES, the average spot price of the Opec basket fell to \$17.75 per barrel in March, as against \$19.10 in February and \$19.99 in January," MEES said.

The Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) March output level is two million bpd higher than the group's production ceiling of 22.086 million, agreed last November.

High oil output levels pushed oil prices lower in March and even further down in the price week of April.

MEES said the average price of Opec's market of seven crudes declined \$1.35 per barrel in March compared with February. Opec's declared "minimum reference price,"

Eurometa to meet in Paris on May 15

FORMER prime minister of the UK Edward Heath and former prime minister of Egypt Abdel Aziz Higazi will speak on the possible consequences for the Middle East and Africa after Europe becomes a single market in 1992.

Eurometa '92 conference will be held in Paris from May 15-17, 1990.

Organised by Mustapha Assad, chairman of Publi-Graphics and vice-president of the International Advertising Association and Area director for the Middle East and Africa, the conference will focus on the real implications for trade between the single European market and the Arab and African worlds post 1992.

Presentations at the conference will discuss the impact of European unification on the Middle East and African worlds in areas such as: commerce and trade, banking and investment, employment and the environment, communication and tourism, marketing and advertising.

The programme will include presentations by: Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, former chancellor of the exchequer; Clay Timon, world president of International Advertising Association (IAA) and director of World-wide Advertising Colgate-Palmolive; Ali Ghannour, special advisor to King Hussein of Jordan; Dr Loukas Tsoukalis, international relations department, St Antony's College, Oxford University; Giampaolo Gamaleri, director of research at the Rai (Italian TV); Ghasseane Tuani, former deputy prime minister of Lebanon, former UN ambassador for Lebanon; Dr Abdullah El Kuwaifi, assistant secretary general for economic affairs, GCC.

China faces 'US challenge'

XICHANG, China, April 9, (Reuters): China showed the world it had the technical know-how to compete in the international satellite launch market yesterday but politics rather than expertise could influence future launches.

Jubilant scientists at the remote Xichang satellite launch centre amid the mountains of southwest Sichuan province are counting on many more launches after putting AsiaSat 1 in space for an international consortium aboard a Chinese-built Long March III rocket.

"This is a breakthrough for China," said a smiling Li Yuben, the centre's director, who said his pre-launch nerves had been worsened by the presence of an invited foreign audience and a 90-minute delay caused by weather.

But strained ties with the United States after last year's crackdown in Beijing on the pro-democracy movement could jeopardise future launches involving US firms and technology, according to Western diplomats and space industry sources.

"The US administration has made several overtures to the Chinese since June 4 but there are some in Congress who feel the Chinese response has not been appropriate and that threatens to affect the satellite launch programme," said Don O'Neal, a spokesman for Hughes Aircraft, the US corporation which built the satellite.

Fears the Chinese would steal the technology and US sanctions against China in the wake of the crackdown on dissent threatened to scuttle the launch of the communications satellite.

But President George Bush exercised a presidential waiver

Oil prices lower

Opec output highest

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Bonn to get a big boost through economic union with East

BONN, West Germany, April 9, (AP): Five leading financial institutes predict West Germany's already mighty economy will get a big boost from its planned economic union with East Germany, a newspaper reported.

The reported prediction supports contentions by West German leaders that no tax increases will be needed to finance the heavy costs of German unification.

According to yesterday's editions of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, the five institutes have forecast economic growth of 4 per

cent this year for West Germany. That's far better than the institute's earlier forecasts of 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

But the institutes also say strong economic growth in West Germany over the next two years hinges on East Germany scrapping its planned economy in favour of a free-market system, the newspaper said.

West Germany's economic, legal and tax systems will have to be adopted by East Germany, the newspaper quoted the institutes as saying in a joint report.

West Germany has launched plans to create an economic union with East Germany on the road to German unification.

Concern has been raised among some West Germans that the costs of unification could prove to be a heavy economic burden, including tax increases.

But according to the Frankfurt newspaper, the institutes are predicting that the rebuilding of East Germany will actually provide additional growth impulses for West Germany's economy.

West Germany's economic, legal and tax systems will have to be adopted by East Germany, the newspaper quoted the institutes as saying in a joint report

BUSINESS

KD slightly higher against US dollar

Gulf Bank weekly report

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded slightly higher against the US dollar ending the week at 293.97 fils compared with its week before last closing of 294.10 fils. The KD traded lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 484.10 fils compared with its week before last closing of 480.12 fils. The KD was lower against the Deutsche mark ending the week at 172.84 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.17 fils. The KD was also lower against the Swiss franc ending the week at 195.52 fils compared with its week before last closing of 194.90 fils. The KD was lower against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 251.46 fils compared with its week before last closing of 249.54 fils. The KD was lower against the Australian dollar ending the week at 225.03 fils compared with its week before last closing at 220.06 fils.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 436.81 fils compared with its week before last closing of 437.00 fils. The KD traded slightly higher against all other GCC currencies compared in the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market rates, short term interbank offer rates, traded relatively higher compared in their previous rates. One month and 3 months rates traded around 8.81 per cent - 8.93 per cent range compared to 8.81 per cent - 8.87 per cent range the week before last. Both six-month and 12-month rates traded also higher at 9.00 per cent - 9.06 per cent range compared to 8.93 per cent - 9.00 per cent range the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the Central Bank announced two new T-Bills, the first is three-month T-Bill issue No. (108) of KD 50 million, with effective and maturity dates of April 11, and June 11 1990, respectively. The second issue is six-months T-Bill issue No. (109), of KD 50 million with effective and maturity dates of April 11 and Oct 10, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices fluctuated sharply last week, moving higher on futures-related buying, firm bond prices and relief over the US stock market's resilience in the face of Tokyo's shakiness. However, prices eased later on uncertainty about the strength of the US economy and the direction of exchange rates. The Dow Jones Industrial average opened the week at 2,700 and closed higher at 2,717, recording a gain of 10 points over the previous week's closing of 2,707.

Share prices in the London

Stock Exchange traded sharply lower in reaction to Monday's steep fall in Tokyo. Market sentiment was further depressed by Wall Street's downturn later in the week. The FTSE-100 opened and closed the week at 2,221, recording a loss of 25 points over the previous week's closing of 2,246.

Stock prices on the Tokyo stock market fell sharply last week, with much selling inspired by a local newspaper article speculating that insurance companies planned a stock sell-off. However, managers of many large insurance firms later denied any plans to dump shares. Also, talk that the stock slump is financially wounding some small Japanese brokerages undermined the market. However, the index rebounded on active institutional buying of domestic issues and futures related buy programmes. The 225-share Nikkei index opened the week at 28,518 and closed higher at 29,278 but recorded a loss of 702 points over the previous week's closing at 29,980.

US dollar

The dollar traded mixed over most part of the week and within a narrow band ahead of Saturday's G-7 meeting, while this week's release of US unemployment rate, had very little impact on the dollar, and money market dealers were reluctant to take any large dollar position before the outcome of the G-7 meeting.

US unemployment rate fell to 5.2 per cent for the month of March, after holding at 5.3 per cent for 9 months, but the pace of new job creation was the slowest in more than three and a half years. The March increase of 26,000 new jobs was the smallest gain since June 1986, when the number of jobs fell by 110,000.

There is doubt that the release of US unemployment figures would give the Federal Reserve the impetus to ease credit, while recent economic data have been somewhat inconsistent and did not point to a clear need for lowering rates again. There is also a belief that the US unemployment numbers are not really reflective of a deteriorating trend in the economy and the quarter could still be overall a strong one and not lead to an easing.

The US purchasing managers' index rose in March to 48.8 per cent from 48.3 per cent in February. A reading below 50 per cent indicates the manufacturing sector of the US economy generally is declining, while a reading above 50 per cent suggests it is generally expanding. The production index rose to its highest level since April of 1989. New export orders jumped to 59.5 per cent in March from 53

per cent, the highest level since September 1989. While the imports index in March was again at 50.5 per cent the same level as in February and January. US February leading indicators fell a per cent against 0.2 per cent rise in January. A decline in building permits fuelled the biggest drop in the leading indicators. Building permits slumped 0.82 per cent after 0.68 per cent jump the month before. If the building permit component were to be removed, the leading indicators would be slightly weaker, confirming the current perception of the US economy.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling opened the week against the US dollar at 1.6330/40 dollars and closed higher at 1.6420/30 dollars, but slightly lower compared to its week before last closing at 1.6445/55 dollars.

The pound fell sharply earlier last week following violent unrest in the heart of London over the previous week-end due to the introduction of the unpopular new form of local taxation known as poll tax. However, the pound recovered later as attention turned back to high yielding currencies.

The pound showed no reaction to news that retail sales rose 2.2 per cent in February after falling 0.9 per cent in January and that new consumer credit totalled £3.74 bn in the same month, down from £3.97 bn in January.

Despite the recovery, the pound is still highly vulnerable in any adverse news on the political front, although it was already discounting a lot of bad economic news. It so far has managed to absorb the negative impact of recent rioting in the UK and continued declines in the opinion polls by Prime Minister Thatcher's Conservative government.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 150.35/45 yen and closed the week lower at 157.73/83 yen, but higher compared with its week before last closing of 158.50/00 yen.

The yen remained under pressure ahead of the G-7 meeting, while the ailing Tokyo shares prices kept the yen depressed.

Bank of Japan has actively intervened in the currency market to prevent the yen from falling further, and it is estimated that BOJ spend a record 1.107 trillion yen in March to defend the yen, while this huge investment seemed to have only slowed the yen's slide, while the G-7 meeting outcome is expected to provide little support to the yen, and probably BOJ may find itself forced again to raise its discount rate to defend the yen.

G-7 ready to aid Japanese yen

Industrial powers worried of a sliding Tokyo currency

PARIS, April 9 (AP): The seven leading industrial powers have put the financial markets on notice that they intend to come to the aid of the Japanese yen if it gets into much trouble, analysts said.

But the countries left it unclear just how much help they would give to the ailing Japanese currency if its value slides further.

"There hasn't been a lot said about what they would do for the yen," said Stephen King, international economist at the London Investment House of James Capel and Co.

"It all sounds less than the best outcome for Japan," said Brendan Brown, head of research at Mitsubishi Finance International in London.

Financial chiefs from the group of seven nations — Britain, Canada, France, West

Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — wrapped up talks on Saturday at the French finance ministry by worrying about the "undesirable consequences" of a sliding yen.

They promised to keep the exchange markets "under review" and renewed their commitment to co-ordinate economic policies, including co-operation in the exchange markets.

But the officials didn't spell out what steps they might take to prop up the sagging yen. US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady even played down concerns about the yen, suggesting that the currency wasn't necessarily trading too cheaply.

The dollar early last week jumped to a three-year high against the yen before falling back some. At Friday's New York close of 157.70 yen, the dollar has risen

about 10 per cent against the yen since the start of the year.

The yen's weakness has coincided with a plunge in Japanese stocks that has seen the Tokyo stock exchange lose about 25 per cent of its value this year.

A stronger dollar threatens efforts to whittle down the enormous \$49 billion trade deficit the United States runs with Japan. It makes Japanese products cheaper for Americans and boosts the price in US goods overseas.

In the past, the G-7 nations have handed together to intervene in the financial markets by buying and selling currencies, mostly to brake any sharp rise in the dollar.

King said the minister's statement was "possibly a slight hint we might be seeing stepped-up intervention in the next few days."

"It would be strange," he said, "to draw attention to the problem and then do nothing."

Brown said financial markets "can't rule out that there will be heavy intervention" by the American and Japanese central banks in the coming days.

If not, he said, the yen would likely fall further.

"I suspect we'll have a few days of rather thin, cautious trading," said Christopher Potts, an economist at Banque Indosuez in Paris.

"But sooner or later we will see to what extent the central banks are prepared to back up words with actions," he said.

Potts noted that the Bank of Japan has spent billions of dollars in recent months trying to stabilize the yen, with little success. That, he said, "suggests that intervention alone isn't sufficient."

Nevertheless, the President of Japan's Central Bank, Yasuhiro Mieno, and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters they were confident the other nations were prepared to keep the yen from tumbling further.

"We didn't do this to let the yen fall," Hashimoto said.

Brady refused to comment when asked if promises were made in the Japanese. "But," he added, "I don't want to indicate to you that means there were promises made."

A senior West German official also played down concerns about the yen in advance of the talks. "There's no reason to unnecessarily dramatize developments in Japan," the official said.

Monetary authorities also can try to adjust currency values by manipulating interest rates, but analysts didn't expect any movement in this area.

Iran's billion-dollar loan

France ready to pay

NICOSIA, Cyprus, April 9 (AP): An Iranian official said yesterday France had agreed to make payment on a loan straining Tehran-Paris relations for more than a decade.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi said that in his talks with a visiting French delegation last week, it was agreed that Paris would make further payment on a billion-dollar loan made by Iran to France before the 1979 revolution.

Speaking on Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, Vaezi said he could not disclose the amount Paris had agreed to pay.

The announcement followed talks in Tehran last week with the visiting secretary-general of the French Foreign Ministry, Francois Scherer.

Vaezi said he hoped the dispute would be settled in talks scheduled to be held in Paris next month.

A settlement has been predicted each time the two officials have met. They met in Tehran last January, and in Paris a month before that.

The radio said the dispute centred around Paris' failure to repay \$370 million of the billion dollar loan. It added that another \$52 million loan, plus accrued interest and damages for broken contracts, also had to be paid by France.

The Iranian loan in 1974 was to secure a 10 per cent stake in the French-based uranium enrichment consortium, Eurodif.

Pepsi to be traded for Soviet vodka

NEW YORK, April 9 (Reuter): PepsiCo Inc. and the Soviet Union expect to sign a three-billion-dollar agreement to barter Pepsi-Cola for ships and vodka, the New York Times reported today.

The accord, expected to be signed today, would be the biggest deal ever between a US corporation and the Soviet Union.

The deal would greatly expand Pepsi-Cola's availability in the Soviet Union, the newspaper reported. It also would allow PepsiCo for the first time to take its profits not only in Stolichnaya vodka but in freights and tankers as well.

Company officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the report.

The PepsiCo deal is being closely watched as an indicator of whether Western companies can prosper in the Soviet market, now opening under the reform policies of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Since 1974, PepsiCo has shipped its soft-drink syrup to the Soviet Union, made it into cola and sold the bottled product. It has taken out its profits in Stolichnaya, which is sold in the United States through a third party.

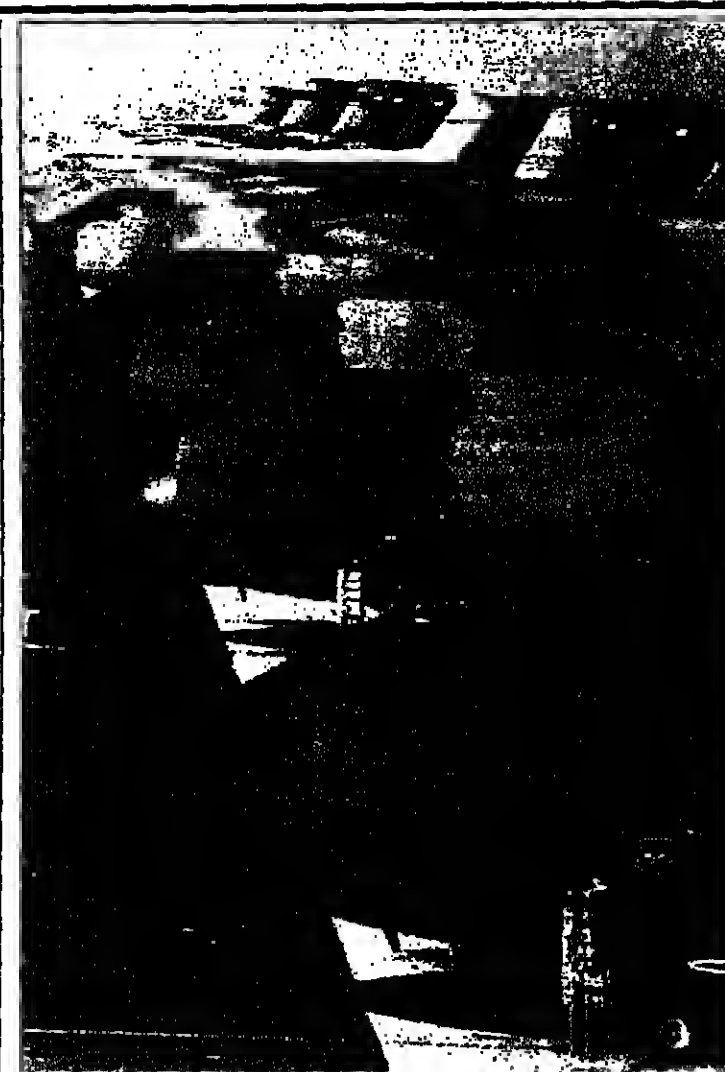
Under the new arrangement, the Soviet Union would trade at least 10 tankers and freighters, ranging in size from 28,600 tonnes to 65,000 tonnes, with a total value of more than \$300 million, the Times reported.

The new deal also would let PepsiCo increase its Soviet bottling network from 26 to 50 plants. It would eventually make possible the nation-wide distribution of soft drinks in aluminium cans and plastic bottles, instead of the cumbersome glass bottles now used.

PepsiCo, which is based in Purchase, New York, had sales last year of more than \$15 billion, making it one of the biggest consumer-product companies in the world. It was one of the first companies to enter the Soviet market.

The three-billion-dollar value of the contract represents retail sales of Pepsi-Cola and Stolichnaya vodka until the year 2000, the newspaper said. That figure assumes a devaluation of the ruble, which is not freely traded on world currency markets.

Using Moscow's official exchange rate for the ruble, the deal's value is closer to nine billion dollars — \$1.5 billion for vodka and \$7.5 billion for Pepsi-Cola in the Soviet Union.



Gathering of giants

C-5 Galaxy military transports, the free world's largest airplanes, have surpassed one million flight hours of operation. The ones above are assigned to the 436th Military Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base (AFB), Delaware, and are part of the US Air Force Military Airlift Command's fleet of 127 C-5 Galaxies.

Also based at Travis AFB, California, Airtax Reserve Wings in Massachusetts, New York and Texas, C-5s have flown crucial airlift missions in both military and humanitarian operations. Vietnam, Grenada and most recently Panama, are among the missions the Galaxy fleet has flown in its first million hours of flight.

Progress made on E. European bank

Soviet participation discussed

PARIS, April 9 (Reuter): Officials from East and West hope to clear away most of the obstacles blocking the creation of an international bank to help East European countries reform creaking economies along market lines.

The officials have made progress in backstage negotiations on the vexed question of Soviet participation in the bank and US objections to denationalizing the bank's operations to European currency units, the European Economic Community (EEC) currency.

But French officials, whose original timetable for completing talks on the Bank by February proved to be hopelessly unrealistic, have been careful not to predict final success when the officials meet again on Monday.

"I'm not sure it can be the last meeting. I think there'll have to be at least one more," a senior official involved in the preparations said.

The most sensitive issues still to be settled are the location of the bank and who will run it.

The EEC countries, which will hold 50 per cent of the bank's \$12-billion capital, say it must be based in a community country with London the leading contender. The United States has backed Prague with Paris and Berlin mentioned as compromises.

The race to run the bank is between Jacques Attali, French President Francois Mitterrand's chief economic adviser who chairs the preparatory talks, and former Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding.

Ruding has the support of Britain, among others, but French officials, perhaps not surprisingly, are convinced that Attali, who first had the idea for the bank, has the edge.

It's thanks to French diplomacy that the bank is getting off the ground, and we think his candidacy has been very well received," one official said.

A final choice might not be made until the EEC summit in Dublin on April 28 allowing finance ministers to ratify the bank's statutes at a meeting in Paris in late May. The agency could then be up and running in early 1991.

Agreement on the main aspects of the bank, including the mix of lending to the private and public sectors, was clinched in talks last month and further progress has been made since then.

Cees Maas, treasurer-general at the Dutch Finance Ministry, said the Soviet Union would voluntarily limit its borrowing from the bank for three to five years to calm US fears that Moscow would siphon too much lending away from smaller countries.

Sabancı from rags-to-riches

Recalls past

ISTANBUL, April 9 (Reuter): An old wooden plough adorns the entrance to the Istanbul headquarters of Sabanci Sabanci's business empire, a poignant reminder of his family's rags to riches story.

"My father began life from zero as a humble cotton worker. He was very careful with money and saved, saved, saved," said Sabanci, 56, an eccentric billionaire whose interests range from electronics, banking and textiles to hotels and bottled water.

Widely regarded as the "people's tycoon" who enjoys mixing with workers as much as with the high and mighty, he is one of Turkey's most popular public figures.

"I relax when I am very successful in the economic or social area. If I am in one of my factories shaking hands with managers and workers, I am happy," he told Reuters in a recent interview. He rarely carries more than a few thousand lira — just enough to pay for a taxi or his ride — and dresses in a style that would make devotees of high fashion wince.

The Sabanci family numbers President Turgut Ozal among its past employees and a former prime minister as top executive of its bank, Akbank.

Its rise mirrors Turkey's struggle to enter the ranks of developed countries.

Sabancı's penniless father, Haci Omer Sabanci, is reputed to have walked 300 km (200 miles) through the barren Anatolian heartland in the depressed 1920s to seek a cotton worker's job.

He later became a shareholder in a cotton ginning plant in the Mediterranean city of Adana.

Now, Sabanci Sabanci and his four brothers, who maintain close control of Haci Omer Sabanci Holding As, are looking abroad to fresh markets in Europe and Asia.

"My father believed that family members should understand each other," said Sabanci, who entered the Forbes magazine list of world billionaires in 1989.

"Today's success of the Sabanci group is due not to the capital, the technology or the equipment. The reason is that members of the family are continuing the same way," he said.

Sabancı said the family would always retain at least a 75 per cent shareholding. It was 100 per cent until 1972, when the group started to sell small stakes to others.

The name "Haci Omer" litters Sabanci's conversation as he sits beneath a painting of his late father, dwarfing smaller signed ones of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former US presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

Power

"He was number one. When I was aged 13 or 14 he took me to the factories and gave me the power to handle company money and sign and fill bank cheques," he said.

Sabancı, head of the governing body of the influential association of Turkish businessmen and industrialists, is always ready to speak out on domestic politics and the economy.

"I would vote for any (political) leader who could ensure stable leadership," he said, referring to squabbling in the centre-right government triggered mainly by disputes over economic policy and inflation, now at an annual 62.8 per cent.

With annual turnover estimated at 10.02 trillion lire (\$4 billion) in 1989, Haci Omer Sabanci Holding is among the first 200 in Fortune magazine's list of the largest 500 industrial companies outside the United States.

Sabancı's main business thrust over the past decade has been tie-ups and joint ventures with foreign firms, including European banks and electronic companies, US and Japanese cord and tyre companies and large insurance outfits.

Sabancı and Japan's Toyota Motor Co. have agreed in principle to form a joint venture to produce Toyota cars in a factory in Adapazarı, western Turkey, from 1993.

"Our basic future is with Western Europe but I believe, I hope, 50 per cent of the firm will be involved with Japan," he said. "We must have relations with the Japanese. We need them. They (the Japanese) are doing very well with technology and have discipline and hard workers," he added.

In the next 10 years Sabanci plans to streamline the company, now comprising about 50 multi-faceted arms, into 10 individual integrated groups each capable of reaching \$500 million in turnover annually.

Sabancı, an keen admirer of traditional Turkish arts, gives much of his wealth to promoting culture, education and welfare, and building student dormitories, libraries and theatres.

Courage has been a hallmark of the Sabanci family.

"Training, learning, knowledge and experience give me courage," Sabanci said in his book "This Is My Life."

"The courageous person is the one who has confidence in himself. The courageous person is not the one who faces the risks but the one who is capable of eliminating them entirely."

Israel stock market surges

TEL AVIV, April 9 (Reuter): Volume and prices surged on the Tel Aviv stock exchange yesterday in anticipation of a new Israeli government under Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

The market's main index rose 4.1 per cent, breaking the psychological barrier of 200 points to end at 200.08. Turnover jumped to 30 million shekels (\$15 million), compared with an average of 18 million shekels last week.

Peres is expected to form a government on Wednesday, ending a month of political uncertainty following the defeat in a parliamentary confidence vote of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Brokers said the market also welcomed the possibility of Yitzhak Shamir deserting Shamir and joining Peres. Peres was reported to have offered the finance portfolio in Modi.

Modai was finance minister and Peres was prime minister in the 1983 government that turned around the economy and slashed inflation from 445 per cent in 1984 to 19.5 per cent in 1986.

Caracas opens to US, British mining cos

CARACAS, April 9 (UPI): The Venezuelan mining minister said on Friday his government has submitted a proposal to congress that would mean "open borders" in national and foreign investment.

Energy and Mining Minister Celestino Armas said at a news conference that investment proposals waiting for congressional approval will now use some five million acres (2 million hectares) to mine for gold, diamonds, coal, phosphates, bauxite, magnesium, zinc, nickel, copper, zirconium and other minerals.

Among the British and US companies waiting to do preliminary prospecting are Greenwich Resources International, British Petroleum Corp., Mnnarch Resources Ltd, Cominco Resources International Ltd, Arimetco Inc. and M and M International Business Co.

The minister said the initial projects call for investments in the order of approximately \$130 million that would generate some 30,000 new jobs.

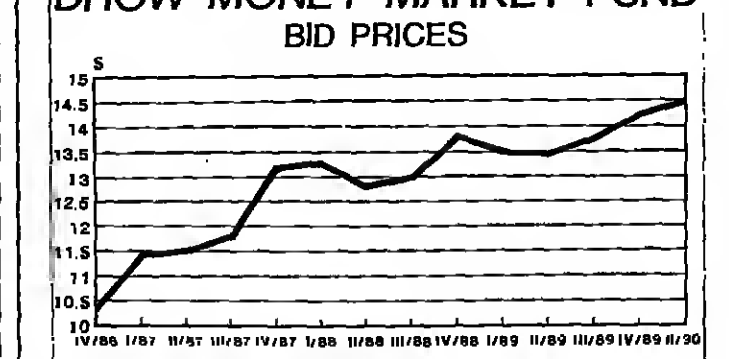
Gasoline prices in Venezuela, among the cheapest in the world, would soon rise an average of 40 per cent under the government's economic adjustment plan, news reports said yesterday.

Andres Sosa Pietri, president of the State Enterprise Petroleos de Venezuela, was quoted by Caracas newspapers as saying prices would rise shortly.

A gallon of 91-octane gasoline octanes would climb from a current price of \$22 cents to \$31 cents, the reports said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

DHOW MONEY MARKET FUND BID PRICES



Positive performance

Investors in the Money Market Fund offered by the Gulf Bank must be happy to see their investments in this fund's unit trusts are still showing a positive upward performance since its launch 4 years ago.

The Money Market Fund which was launched in November 86 at an offer price of US\$8.92 per unit recorded as at 4.4.1990 a US\$ 14.61 for the bid price or an increase of over 47 per cent. This is truly a very positive performance taking into account the universal market fluctuations which characterized the international economy for the last 3 years.

Investing in the Dhow Money Market Fund becomes also more attractive when it offers protection from volatility in any single currency by being diversified in a portfolio of major world currencies such as US dollars, pound sterling, Deutsch marks, Swiss francs and Japanese yen.

Romania-Daimler talks: Romania plans a plant to build buses in co-operation with the West German firm Daimler-Benz. Prime Minister Petre Roman said on Sunday.

"Some forms of co-operation are planned, first of all some production lines for products such as buses in Romania and later on for the foundation of some commercial companies," he told a news conference.

He had been asked about talks he had on Saturday with Werner Niefer, a Daimler-Benz board member.

Mazda to increase overseas imports

HIROSHIMA, Japan, April 9 (UPI): Mazda Motor Corp., Japanese affiliate of Ford Motor Co. of the United States, said today it will boost imports from overseas suppliers, particularly in North America, and promote joint development with foreign part makers.

The Hiroshima-based automaker said the decision is in line with its import expansion programme adopted last October.

The company said its purchases from overseas suppliers in fiscal 1989, which ended March 31, soared 42.0 per cent over the preceding year to about

\$510 million.

It said a survey mission comprising officials from its research and development and purchasing divisions is currently visiting the United States to develop import opportunities.

The delegation will visit some 20 suppliers in North America to explain the company's research and development process, development schedule and procurement practices.

The company said it plans to expand and strengthen joint development for new models with overseas engineering companies.

Odissi dance: highlight of India Festival



PREPARATIONS for the India Festival are going on in full swing and the inaugural function has been fixed on April 25, 1990 at 8 pm at Indian Arts Circle, Funaitees. The organisers have succeeded in getting the famous Odissi dancer, Ranjana Gaubhar to perform on the inaugural day. She will be presenting another Odissi dance on April 29 at the Indian Arts Circle. It will be a privilege for the people in Kuwait to witness the Odissi dance at its most brilliant form. The beauty and the harmonious movement of this dance form has made it popular not only in India but all over the world. Odissi has a prominent place in the various dance forms which have originated from the ancient land of India.

Having completely surrendered her mind, body and soul, to dance, Ranjana Gaubhar's commitment to Odissi is a deep devotion. Enchanted audiences have raved that watching her dance transcends them from the material world of reality into a sublime spiritual odyssey. When she dances, the splendour of the style and the beauty of the dancer blend so harmoniously as if, Ranjana and Odissi were made for each other.

Inspired, encouraged and blessed by eminent gurus of Odissi, Ranjana has danced extensively in India, Europe, England and America. Performances at the Festival of India, Queen Elizabeth Royal Festival Hall, Commonwealth Institute, Dehlem Museum, Berlin, West Germany, and several appearances on Indian, British, American and German television are a few of her highly successful accomplishments.

Commitment to her art is translated into a commitment to society. Through Utsav Society which she initiated and established three years ago, Ranjana teaches the art of Odissi to talented students whatever their socio-economic background. She even choreographed, taught and staged ballets by physically handicapped children.

It is given to only a few in their life time to transform the lives of others. Ranjana Gaubhar achieves this, both as a dancer and a concerned citizen.

The inaugural function on April 25 will be followed by the next 3 days by cultural shows and exhibitions. On 26th, 27th and 28th April, cultural shows from various states of India will be presented between 10 am and 11.30 am at the Indian Arts Circle Auditorium. Artists belonging to various States in India, who are residing in Kuwait, are showing tremendous enthusiasm in preparing for the cultural shows to be performed on these 3 days.

From 26th to 28th, during the Eid holidays, there will be an exhibition of Indian products at the stalls at the Indian Arts Circle premises. All the stalls for the exhibition have been already taken up by the exhibitors and a large variety of Indian clothes, handicrafts and other products will be available at these stalls. Apart from this, there will be a large number of food stalls where various types of Indian delicacies will be made available. The organisers of the festival have not spared any efforts to create a real Indian 'Mela' atmosphere during the Eid holidays.

One of the major attractions of the festival is the lucky draw of the master coupon for which the First Prize will be a Toyota Cressida car. Apart from this, there are other 19 valuable prizes for the lucky draw. Master coupon will also ensure two concessional entries to the Indian Arts Circle premises during the festival period and free entry for the gala concluding ceremony scheduled for 4pm on May 4, 1990.



Cathay Pacific - 1990 Regional Conference

Cathay Pacific recently held its 1990 Regional Conference for Middle East and India, with 75 delegates from the Gulf, Levant, India, Pakistan and Hong Kong.

'1989 has been a successful year both system-wide and in the region,' stated Robert Atkinson, newly appointed general manager Middle East and India who chaired the conference.

Besides a quick reflection on 1989, the conference agreed on priorities for 1990 on a wide range of topics ranging from marketing, staff, customer service and accounts.

Attending the conference from the airline's head office in Hong Kong was Rowland Cobbold, marketing director and speakers from this region included Rajeev Budhiraja, pricing and marketing services manager Middle East and Peter Langston, manager India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

During the lunch session the chief guest speaker, Tariq Almoayed, minister of information of Bahrain outlined the role of Bahrain in developing tourism in the future. He thanked Cathay Pacific for their commitment to Bahrain with daily flights to Hong Kong and London. The minister was accompanied by Jamil Wafa, chairman and chief executive of Unitaq Group, Cathay Pacific GSA in Bahrain.

Pictured in the centre is Tariq Almoayed, minister of information, State of Bahrain. On his right is Rowland Cobbold, marketing director, Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong and Jamil Wafa, chairman and chief executive Unitaq Group, Bahrain. On his right is Robert Atkinson, general manager Middle East and India, Cathay Pacific, Bahrain and Rajeev Budhiraja, pricing and marketing services manager Middle East, Cathay Pacific, Bahrain.

PRAYERS

Imrak	3.56
Fajr	4.06
Zohr	11.49
Asr	3.23
Maghreb	6.12
Isha	7.30

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 1.00 The opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World Animals: Cultural serial
- 2.00 Kabool Adventures: Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Maa Al Sabereen: Historical serial (part 15)
- 3.10 Human Health: Cultural programme (part 15)
- 3.35 Qabdhay Bahlool: Arabic serial (part 15)
- 4.15 Rasael Al Ekha: Local programme (part 15); prepared and presented by Dr Najeb Al Refai
- 4.30 Rafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (part 15)
- 5.30 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 6.15 Baad Al Eftar: Religious programme
- 6.30 Mazenger Journey: Cartoon serial (part 15)
- 7.00 Madeenat Al Ajayeb: Local children serial (part 15)
- 7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 8.15 A religious symposium
- 9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 15)
- 9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The Family: Local serial (part 15)
- 11.45 3x3: Variety game show (part 15)
- 12.30 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (part 15)
- 1.15 Adam Bedoon Gheta: Arabic feature film, starring Nelly and Mohammed Subhi
- 3.00 News summary
- 3.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 3.20 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.10 Short Story Special: A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Night of the Red Hound
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan
- 9.45 You and the Law: A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations enforced in the State of Kuwait
- 10.00 Faith and Science: Food all over the World. Kinds of food, methods of processing and preservation of food, all over the world.
- 10.30 Horiza: Why buildings make you sick. Certain buildings cause headache, coughing, difficult breathing for some people. A study on ventilation, lighting, heating and air conditioning in modern buildings.
- 11.45 Murphy Brown Devil with the Blue Dressing: Murphy plans to hold an interview with a mysterious young businessman but the producer insists on bringing along a very beautiful girl named Kurti who plays the main role in the interview.
- 12.30 Wolf: "Running on Empty". A 17-year-old student falls dead while training. His mother reports Elliot to file a case against the school. In the meantime the coach seeks Tony's help. Elliot plans to find out whether drugs are used in training or not.
- 1.30 News in Brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

Furniture of Kuwait, pre-oil 1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery; daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

Bits n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Kaleidoscope

A colourful spectrum of British and American 20th century music — including: Britten, Gershwin, Elgar, Copeland and Sandhein. Frances Coad-voice: Trevor Platt - piano. On April 18th at the British Embassy. For more information Tel. 5318060 ext 19, 8 am - 1 pm.

Hobby Centre

An exhibition of students work in jewellery, watercolour painting & pottery in the studio at the Tareq Rajah Museum on:

Wednesday, April 11th from 8 pm - 10.30 pm.

Thursday, April 12th from 9.30 am - 12 noon; 8 pm - 10.30 pm.

Friday, April 13th from 8 pm - 10.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Cine Club

Tuesday, 10/4: "Tobikovsky." Dir. by Ecker Talatnikin. Screening to be held at the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium.

Sunday, 15/4: "The Last Emperor." Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 17/4: "Sunshine." Dir. by Stanley Kubrick. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Wednesday, 18/4: "Czech Cartoon Muttlet and Cley Show." Screening to be held at the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium.

Sunday, 22/4: "Indiana Jones and the Last Adventure." Dir. by Steven Spielberg. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 24/4: "Once Upon A Time In America." Dir. by Sergio Leone. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Note: Screening at 9.30 pm.

British Council.

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad, (DECCAN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloos Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and design henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Passion Week

THE English language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services:

12th April — Maundy Thursday — Communion worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April — Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.

15th April — Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During which choir will present "Easter Cantata." All are welcome.

British Council

COAST to Coast. Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 April 6.00 pm. A genuinely funny comedy, this is one of the most talked about and fondly remembered British films of 1987, achieving the highest rating ever for a BBC feature.

Lenny Henry, arguably Britain's finest comedian, in his first film role as Ritchie Lee, is perfect. There is the added bonus of 18 classic Tamla Motown hits skillfully deployed by director Sandy Johnson.

DENNIS, Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 10.30 am.

The only problem with Dennis is that everything he does always ends in disaster for his long-suffering parents and neighbours. No wonder everyone calls him the Menace! Nine episodes that will have children hollering with laughter!

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam — in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am, Concelebrated Mass of Chrism (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English — in the high hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Ramadan bazaar

THE Khalifa School will hold their monthly bazaar, Ramadan special, to coincide with the qriya an evening. Ramadan food hampers, dried herbs, Kashmiri shawls and carpets, used clothing, books and many more items will be on offer. It will be held between 8.30 pm to midnight. The school is located on Tawon St. Al Bida, next to Regency Palace Hotel. All are welcome.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents:

"The Dancer is the dance & dance is life"

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm, Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm, Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm, Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee), Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm — 6 pm Saturday — Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am - 12 noon.

Cosmos Summer Nite

From Kuwait Cosmos on 10th May 1990, at lawns of Hunting & Equestrian Club. (Pool-side) from 21.00 hrs into dawn dancing to the beats of Hurricane Alley & Next of Kin. Highlights of the evening: Cosmos Summer Nite special table surprise, novelty dance, ballroom dance competition. Valuable gifts in store and not forgetting an exotic buffet of your choice. Please collect your invitations from undermentioned: Vincent Pinto, 4887140 or Dama D'Cruz, 5623621.

APPROB Eid dinner venue changed

THE venue of the Gala Eid Milan party of the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has now been changed to the Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom-A to accommodate more guests, an APPROB press release said.

The Gala Party will be held on Friday 27th April. It will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes. There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of 10. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact: 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel

LA PALMA: Opens at 6.00 pm for an elaborate iftar buffet with traditional specialties of your choice. Desserts prepared by our Arabic pastry chef. One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Ext 8166.

LA PATISSERIE: Opens for take-away treats at 5.00 pm and stays open for Subour until 2.00 am. Live entertainment in the lobby sets the mood for the evening. Ext 8014.

OUTSIDE CATERING: Whether it is for you and your family or for friends and associates our outside catering facilities can cater to all your needs. Offers traditional iftar buffet suggestions. Banquets will be pleased to assist: 2530000 ext 8008/8000.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, maza, etc. Enjoy Subour from 12 pm to 3 am.

LOBBY: Lady pianist Margorata Wejs plays in the lobby diwaniya after iftar until the end of Ramadan.

Ramadan at Messiah Beach Hotel

AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghabga & Sohoun: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

SPORTS

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonio Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Messiah Beach Hotel Club

WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing.

SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION: 140HP Larson. Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners & intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level.

Each participant will be given a syllabus of training for their particular course. For further information please telephone 5624111 ext. 739.

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday.

Tennis clinics ongoing for all levels or play including junior, ladies' and adult sessions with Frank Novak, an experienced Canadian coach and tennis

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus: Cold Steel
Al Sahmiah: Good Morning Vietnam
Al Hamra: Topline
Drive-In: Raiders of Paradise
Al Firdos: Aakhri Ghulam
Fahad Open: Nighahen

Fahad Sicilian
Al Jahra: Shahi Khandan
Granada: Naadu Vazhikal
Salaibikhat: Iron Angels 2
Jleeb: Geraftar
Ahmadi Drive-In: Arabic film

professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Look good, feel great! Ladies' saunas now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9 am to 9 pm. Austrian instructor for swimming lessons. Courses start first week of every month.

Ahmad Kart Racing:

This week sees the final race meeting of the season with the 'Friday the 13th' handicap race. All drivers are given a handicap according to their performance during the season, which means that everybody

has a chance to win a trophy. Racing starts at 1.30 pm and entrance is only 500 fils.

The new season starts in mid-September and we have lots of plans for improvements including the introduction of new classes of racing not seen in the Middle East before — watch the Arab Times for details this summer.

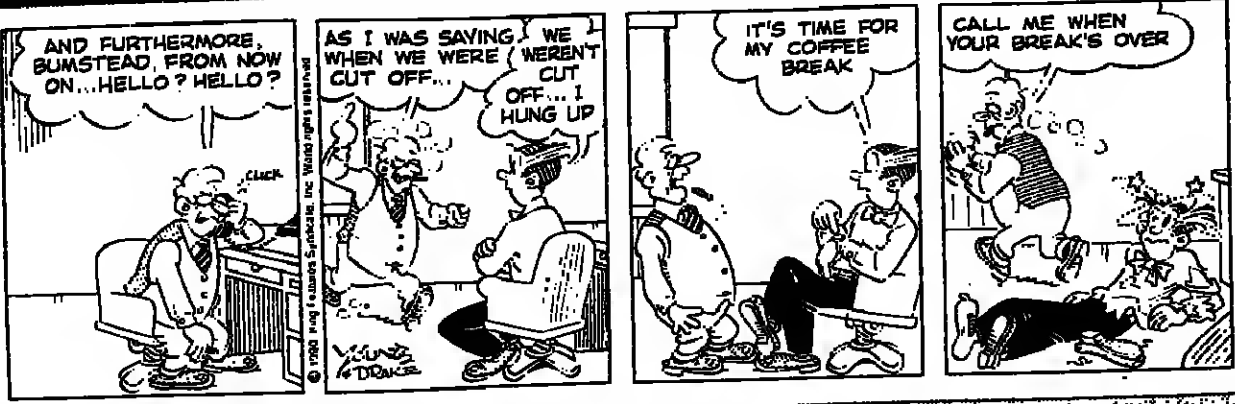
Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

هكذا من المثل

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



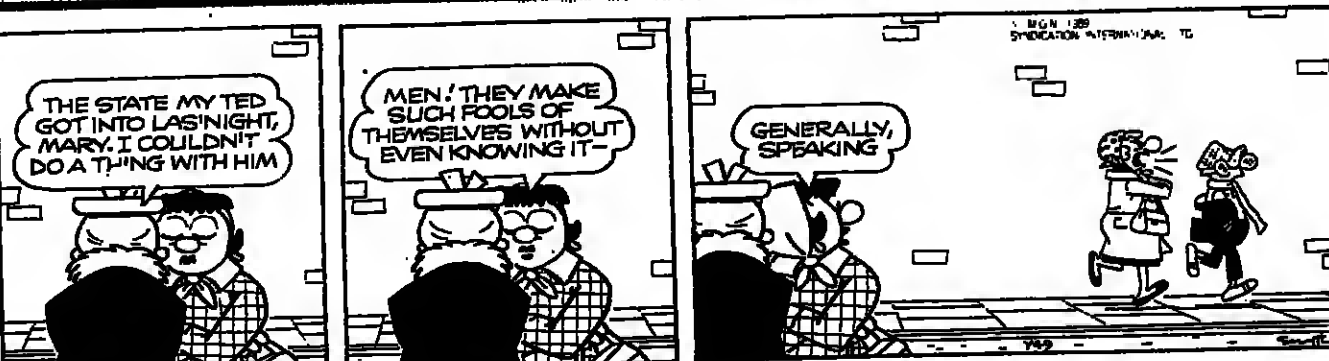
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



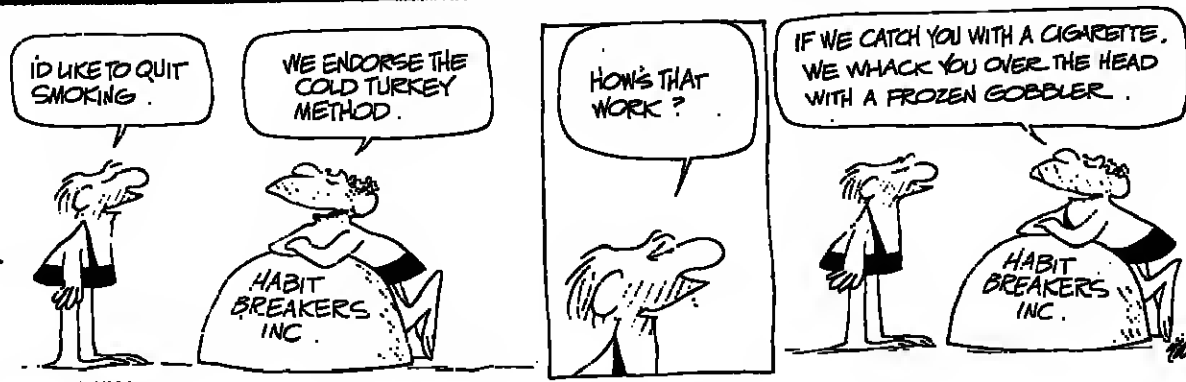
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



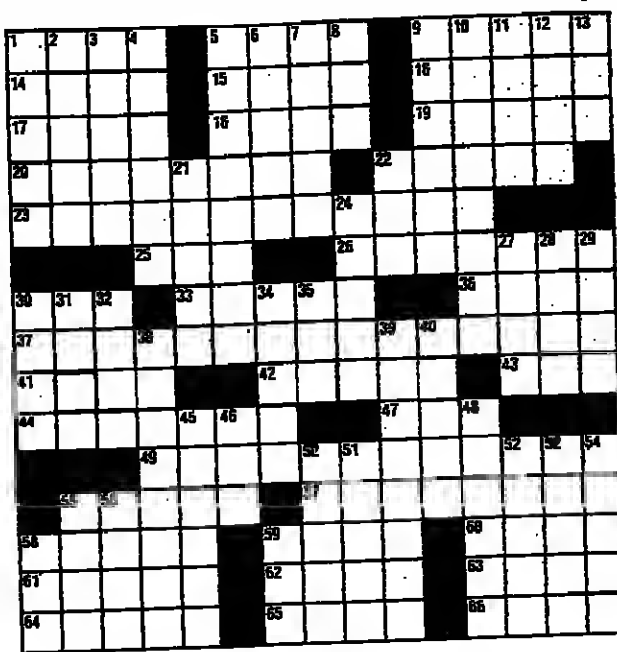
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 On — equal
 - 5 Pocket change
 - 9 Before noon
 - 14 19th cen. French illustrator
 - 15 Popular name in Oslo
 - 16 Navigational syst.
 - 17 Owl howl
 - 18 Telegram
 - 19 Comes down in buckets
 - 20 Sweet potatoes
 - 22 Consumed
 - 23 New Zealand city on the Avon
 - 25 East Lansing Univ.
 - 26 Followed
 - 30 &
 - 33 Straight
 - 36 Money in Naples
 - 37 Arum family member
 - 41 "It's — to Tell..."
 - 42 King of Tyre
 - 43 Observe
 - 44 Trattoria treat
 - 47 Hoopster's org.
 - 49 Joseph Wambaugh novel
 - 55 Paris' — Quarter
 - 57 Clam's cousin: Var.
 - 58 Leaf of a manuscript
 - 59 Press disclosure, sometimes
 - 60 "M-A-S-H" — actor
 - 61 Capital of Guam
- DOWN
- 1 Type of committee
 - 2 Fido, is one
 - 3 Bellowing
 - 4 Decorate again
 - 5 Slide
 - 6 — artery
 - 7 Fan
 - 8 12/24 or 12/31
 - 9 Liame's kin
 - 10 Mountain base
 - 11 Veritable
 - 12 Merit
 - 13 TLC dispensers
 - 21 Japanese immigrant style
 - 22 Stray
 - 24 Express
 - 27 Hot — Houlihan of "M-A-S-H"
 - 28 Put-in-Bay's lake
 - 29 Social engagement
 - 30 Slightly open
 - 31 Space agcy.
 - 32 50A to Cato
 - 34 Moral philosophy
 - 35 Fraternity letter
 - 38 Type of needle
 - 39 Gave way to fear
 - 40 Shadow
 - 45 Resident of Toledo
 - 46 Dykstra or Deighton
 - 48 Wear away
 - 50 Pays attention to
 - 51 Type of orange
 - 52 Kukta's pal
 - 53 Sing. Swiss
 - 54 Rigging supports
 - 55 Theater box
 - 56 Jar —
 - 58 Craze
 - 59 Romanian coin

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TOO MANY HIGH CARDS!

East-West vulnerable. South clarer's ace. After drawing two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, declarer tried the club finesse. West's king won and two diamond tricks were banked by the defense. East shifted to the jack of hearts and declarer's only remaining decision was to choose which defender won the setting trick in hearts.

South's problem was his hand had one too many court cards! Change the queen of clubs to an insignificant spot and declarer would surely have found the winning line.

After taking the first trick with the ace of diamonds, declarer should test trumps by cashing the ace from hand. Should either defender show out there is no recourse other than the club finesse. But when both defenders follow, declarer can claim the contract as long as clubs are no worse than 4-2.

Next, South cashes the ace of clubs and continues with the queen to West's king. Let's presume the defenders then take their two diamond tricks and, as before, East shifts to the jack of hearts. Declarer wins in dummy, ruffs a club high, and ruffs another club to set up a long club in dummy. Declarer can get back to the board with a trump to discard his losing heart on the established club and claim his contract.

"I never hold any cards," is the standard lament of bridge players the world over. Here's a case where South could legitimately complain of too good a hand.

Even dyed-in-the-wool four-card majorities would raise to two spades with the North hand. With three excellent trumps and a ruffing value, the more encouraging raise should clearly be preferred over a dampening one no trump. South's leap to game was automatic.

West led the eight of diamonds and East's jack was captured by de-

NORTH
♠ K Q 9
♥ A 2
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 8 7 4 3 2

EAST
♠ 6 2
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ K Q J
♣ J 10 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 8 7 3
♥ Q 5
♦ A 10 9
♣ A Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Eight of ♦

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
TALL SPY AGENT
DIED TRID LEIDNE
AIGRA REAR LIDRIS
DIA DUA YLE DRISIN
NYET EUGENIE
HADJJI DONATIE
IDEATE SOS BAISE
PALMYRA BEMUSIED
ERILE GAR LASTED
SCORER CHAIRY
LISBON COCA
LAW FITZWATER
SPIKE ALTA HOPE
AUGER DEER ANON
T.D.RS ERIS BEIST



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

Do not try to tell others what to do, but do not allow yourself to be dominated either. You should not permit your enthusiasm to carry you away. Nor, however, should you become indifferent. Be reliable.

Cancer
June 21 - July 28

Do not allow thoughts of what still has to be done put you off doing what you are doing now: one thing at a time. Avoid being greedy nor should you be too acquisitive. And do show a little more respect for your elders. Be tolerant.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You will be able to make the most of something that at first did not look very promising. There is fortunately still time to make up for something you had forgotten to do, but you must owe hurry. Do not strain yourself over too lax. Be moderate.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You are more inclined to spill things and should try to be even more careful. Remember that safety limits are there for your sake too, do not exceed them. Ensure that your diet contains enough vitamins. Be consistent.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You should act your age and behave as though you were a lot younger. However, you should consider that you are too old — unless you really are. Try to see the funny side of things. Be polite.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

Something that you do not like doing should not be postponed any longer. Your lucky numbers are 3 and 27. If you are a little kinder to others you will be well rewarded. Do not allow thoughts of work to invade your privacy. Be receptive.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

If you work more intensively you will have more time for your leisure pursuits too. If you expect others to do things for you you will be disappointed. And if you expect to win a fortune you will also be disappointed. Be sensible.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

Stick to your principles and do not do anything that would weigh on your conscience. Keep your wits very much about you and do not be deceived by appearance. You will be able to make a compromise that is satisfactory to all concerned. Be attentive.

Gemini
May 21 - June 28

You will have to get a move on but that does not mean doing things by halves. Make sure you allow yourself enough time to enjoy life too. And do get all the rest you need. Be matter of fact.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

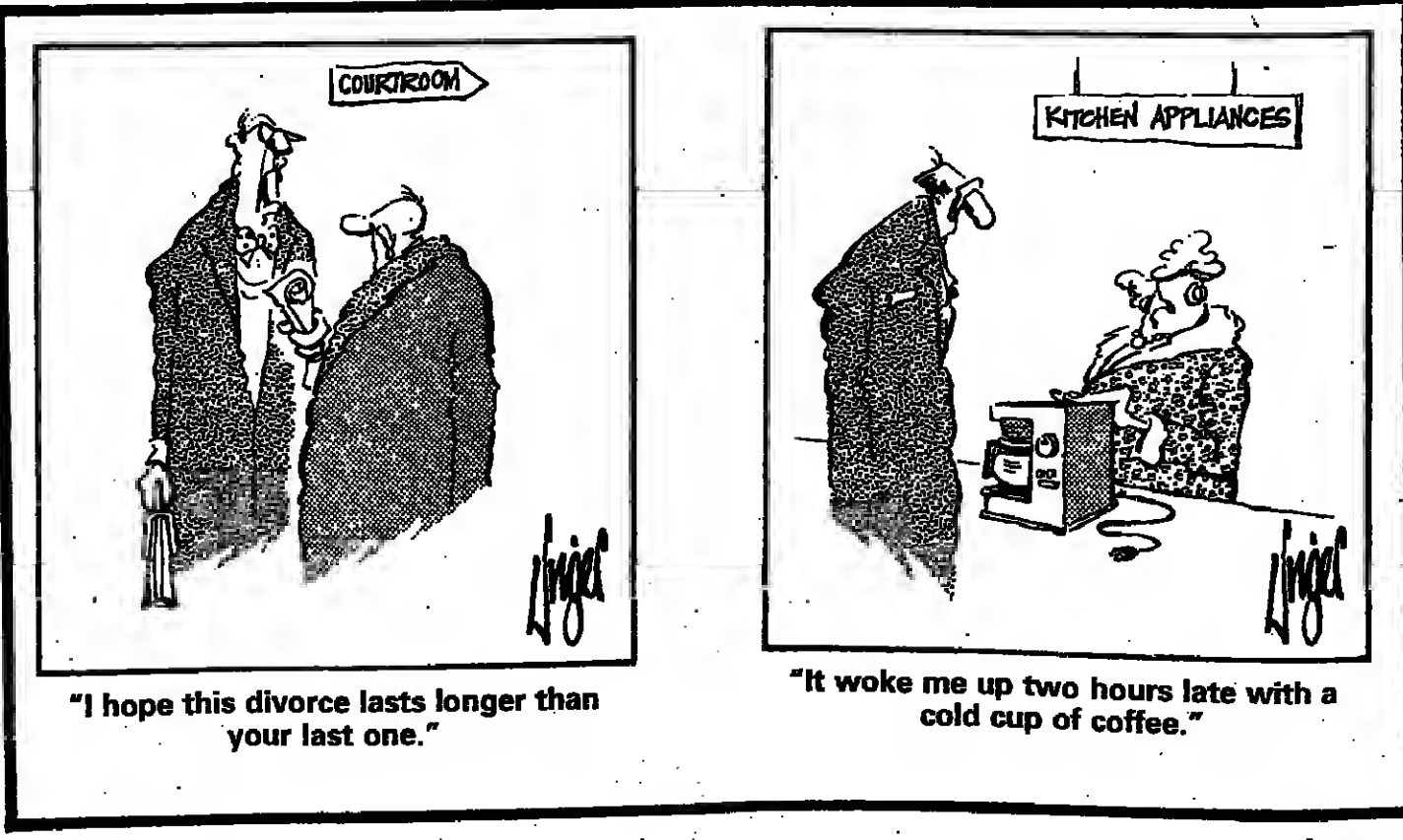
Make sure you do not do anything that would definitely harm your health. Try to ensure that your clothes suit the occasion. You will be reminded of a promise you have made and you should not break it. Be tactful.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 28

You should concentrate on essentials and you should not get bogged down in details. However, nor should you deal only with superficialities. An old friend will be pleased to hear from you. Be pertinent.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 28

This is a good period for you only you must overcome a certain reluctance to do certain more unpleasant things that have to be done. Do not attempt to use force where charm and persuasion has failed. Avoid taking too much for granted. Be sincere.



"I hope this divorce lasts longer than your last one."

"It woke me up two hours late with a cold cup of coffee."

JUNIOR TIMES

Happy birthday



Zainul Abideen turns 2 on April 6



Anthony D'Souza turned 11 on April 3



Ranya Rahim turns 6 on April 11



Ajita Edward turned 11 on April 7



Aunt Mary Dalchhead turned 11 on April 8



Modalaualasa Srikanth turned 14 on April 13



Anu Prem turned 4 on April 6



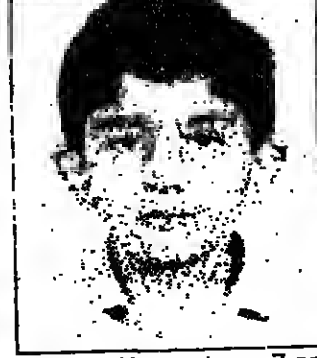
Mariyam Shams turned 4 on April 7



Elizabeth Crosby turned 18 on April 8



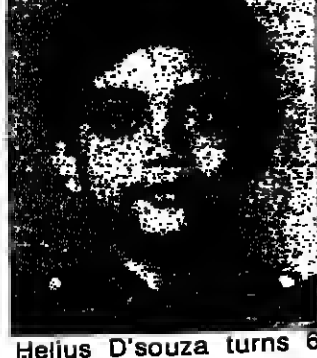
Iram Rizvi turned 12 on April 5



Deepak Kumar turns 7 on April 11



Ronnie John turns 6 on April 4



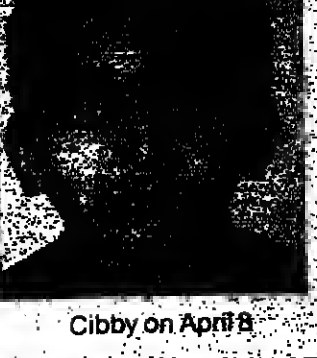
Helius D'souza turns 6 today, April 10



Farinaz Simika turns 10 on April 11



Steffi Castellino turns 1 today April 10



Cibby on April 9



Darryl Dias turns 6 on April 11



Anup Thomas turned 8 on March 29



Avantika Sethi turned 12 on April 4



Sheena Samuel turns 7 today, April 10



Shadiha Ibrahim turned 10 on April 8



Harishka Nadhishaen turned 5 on April 8



Piyush turned one on April 5



Manmeet Singh turned 4 on March 28

How many of Roger's peanuts can you see?



Amazing facts

In Saskatchewan, Canada, it is illegal to drink water in beer parlours.

A kangaroo can hop at an estimated speed of 41 km per hour.

The entire contents of the first gramophone record was: 'Mary had a little lamb.'

'Typhoid Mary' was the name given to Mary Mallon of New York City who was responsible for 1,300 cases of typhoid. She was eventually placed under permanent detention from 1915 until her death in 1938.

Cheese & Onion Pasties

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. butter
1 lb. cheese
1 lb. onion
1 lb. flour
1 lb. salt
1 lb. pepper
1 lb. milk
1 lb. eggs

EQUIPMENT

Rolling pin
Pastry brush
Pastry cloth
Pastry board
Pastry wheel
Pastry cutter
Pastry fork

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Melt butter in a large pot.
3. Add cheese and onion to the melted butter.
4. Fry until golden brown and then remove from heat.
5. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
6. Roll out the dough on a floured surface.
7. Roll out the dough into a circle.
8. Roll out the dough into a circle.
9. Roll out the dough into a circle.
10. Roll out the dough into a circle.
11. Roll out the dough into a circle.
12. Roll out the dough into a circle.



Cornish pasties

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. flour
1 lb. butter
1 lb. salt
1 lb. pepper
1 lb. milk
1 lb. eggs

EQUIPMENT

Rolling pin
Pastry brush
Pastry cloth
Pastry board
Pastry wheel
Pastry cutter
Pastry fork

Magic

Colour changing balloons

By Marco, the Magician

THE magician shows a blue inflated balloon to his audience. He says that he doesn't like that colour because blue has traditionally been unlucky for him. So he takes a pin and pricks the balloon. There goes bang, and the balloon turns light yellow.

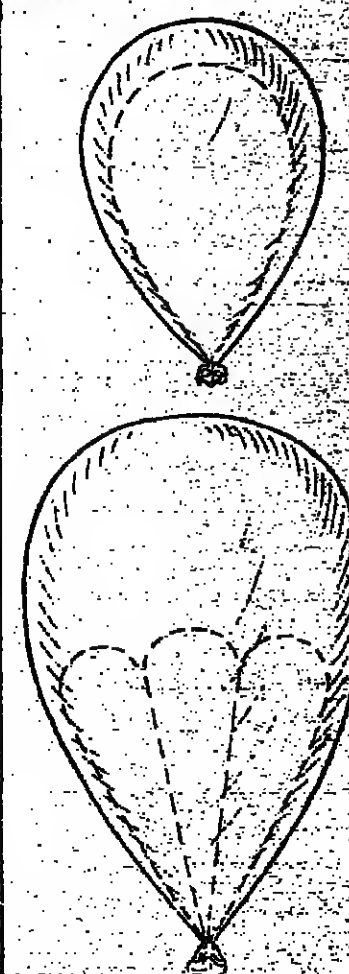
The trick appears to be a page taken straight out of a fiction novel. It almost looks like, when the magician does it on stage. It is, however, an elementary trick like the last one. This is how it's done.

Take two balloons, a blue and the second a yellow. Insert the yellow balloon in side the blue one. Inflate the outer balloon (the blue one) a little then go on to the inner one. Again, inflate the outer one a little then switch over to the inner one. Alternately this way, inflate both balloons to the desired size and tie up both. You are ready for the trick. The moment you prick the blue (outer) balloon, out comes the yellow one just as simple as that.

The same principle can be taken further. Instead of one two balloons can be made to spring from one that is burst. For this insert two balloons inside the bigger one. Inflate the same way as laid down above. When you take the pin and prick the outer balloon, it looks as though you have changed a single balloon into two.

The same principle could be carried further in what could be called a multiplication trick. Balloons of the same colour (say blue) could be inserted in a bigger balloon of blue colour. When the parent is burst, there come a number of offsprings!

NOTE: In this trick, care should be taken about the choice of colour of the balloons. Always ensure that balloons of a higher colour are placed inside the outside balloons, which will have a darker colour. Else, the audience will see through the trick literally!



Young poets

I like .. On my sadness

I like birds.
I like parrots.
I like flowers.
I like roses.
I like ice-cream.
I like toys.
I like dolls.
I like cartoons.
I like Tom and Jerry.
I like reading.
I like stories.
I like Cinderella.
Ranya M. Rahim,
5 years old,
Indian School Fahaheel.

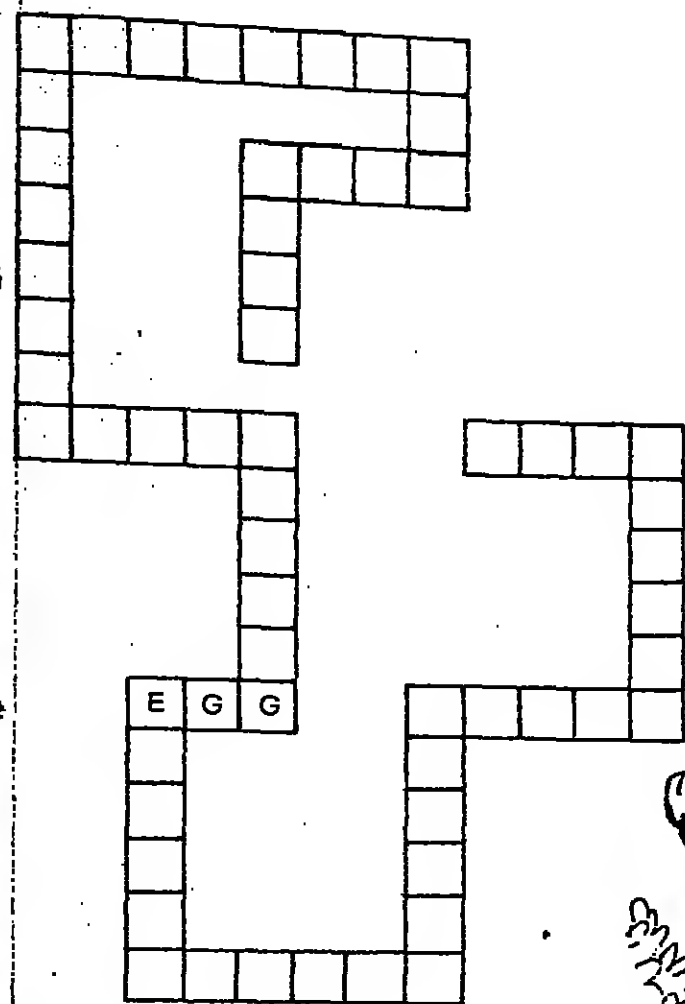
Sadness has overwhelmed me
I cannot resist
Grief, as never before experienced
Has brought me to my knees.
The sadness of death is catching
It lingers unobserved
In every black letter from a black house
Written by black-clothed people.
Sweeping over households
Whispering its way to the neighbours
Our friends in sympathetic silence
Bemoaning our loss.
Flying over gloomy mountains
And dead acidic lakes as pale as lemon juice
To the place of eternal resting
To glimpse the victim of death's vigil
Dressed in all her mortal finery.
Silent, dignified, at peace with the world.
And far away — I hear a baby cry
I wonder — Was this the end,
Or a new beginning?

Saliya Silva,
Age: 13 years old,
Senior 2
Kuwait English School

January 1990

Easter Trail Blazer

Directions: Place the words from the word list in the boxes to form a continuous trail. Place one letter in each box. Corner boxes are shared with two words. One word has been done for you.



Word List:

rabbit
grass
decorate
egg
Easter
Sunday
hide
eat

dyes
bunny
hunt
duckling
basket
Spring



Children's radio network to hit airwaves this summer

By Sue Morgan

PHILADELPHIA, (UPI): Kids already have a television network with programming just for them and a group of Philadelphia entrepreneurs is hoping the younger set will take just as enthusiastically to radio tailored to their tastes.

The Kidwaves Radio network is to hit the airwaves this summer with 13 hours a day of programming for kids, from news to storytelling to music.

"This network will battle illiteracy in our country," said Kidwaves President Mel Diamond, "we're exposing children to programming ... so we can stimulate their creativity and imagination."

"That is severely lacking when they have only one other medium to choose from — the visual medium," Diamond said.

Kidwaves hopes to stimulate its young listeners with programmes

including "what do you know," a quiz show, "All about kids," an interview programme, "Musical time machine," which will introduce kids to classical music, and "story stew," featuring storytelling and performances of classic stories.

The network's co-founders are Linda Katz and Marcia Moon, who set up the Children's Literacy Initiative, and Ragan Henry, a Philadelphia attorney who owns the largest group of FM stations in the United States.

"It's not A-B-C-D-E-F-G, not at all," Diamond said of the programming mix. "It's entertaining to the child and to the parent. That's critical, because many parents are going to tune in to this in the car."

"My feeling is the initial listening will be as a result of the parents, and the rest will be a desire to hear more," Diamond said.

Kidwaves is also hoping schools will tune in to all or part of its program-

ming. "Certainly, schools will have the opportunity to tune in to us and use the programming in their curriculum," Diamond said. "We will programme it so that children who are at school will have programming directed for their age group when they get home."

"Most of the programmes will be produced in-house," said Diamond, "and aimed at children from 2 to 11 years old."

"It's not just a disk jockey playing records and that's what is so good about it," Diamond said. "It's all preproduced for children."

Kidwaves' initial sales pitch is aimed at AM radio stations that operate only during the day, do not have sister FM stations or that broadcast simulcast programming from sister FM stations.

"All those groups represent AM stations that aren't making money and

are in fact losing money," said Diamond, who previously worked with a National Hispanic network and a national satellite music network.

The financial factor has convinced Diamond it will be easy to lure targeted station owners to substitute Kidwaves for their present formats.

"Once they see by switching to Kidwaves they can make a profit and reduce their operating costs by a third, I think reason will take over," Diamond said.

The network already has signed up affiliates in Houston and Kansas City. Although Kidwaves' stated goal is to combat illiteracy, Diamond readily admits the network is in business to make money.

"I don't believe that having a good goal like that is mutually exclusive to the thought of earning a profit at the same time," Diamond said. "If you can serve the community while earning a profit, you have the best of both worlds."

Dear Junior Readers,

Everybody hates going to the dentist. Even when a tooth begins to ache, it is ignored until the pain is unbearable. However, regular visits to your dentists are very important.

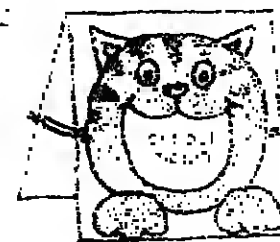
Your dentist looks after your teeth, and checks them carefully with special instruments. An X-ray might be taken to look right inside your jaw. A dentist will tell you the best way to clean your teeth, and what foods are good and bad for them. If your teeth are not growing straight you may need a special wire brace fitted for a while. Sometimes you will need a filling to mend a hole in your tooth. First the dentist may give you an injection to "freeze" your mouth so you won't feel anything. The tooth is then drilled to make room for the metal filling. After that the filling is put in.

Manal.

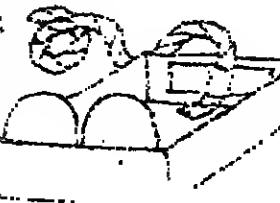
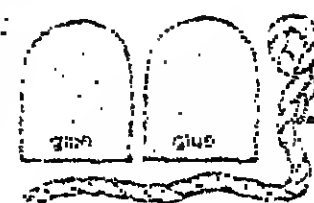
Cat & Mouse

Make a cat and mouse game

1. Cut out a piece of cardboard and fold it in half. 2. Draw a cat on one side and a mouse on the other. 3. Cut out the cat and mouse. 4. Push the cat and mouse through the cardboard so they can move back and forth. 5. Play the game with a friend.



On one side of the cardboard draw a cat and on the other side draw a mouse. Cut out the cat and mouse.



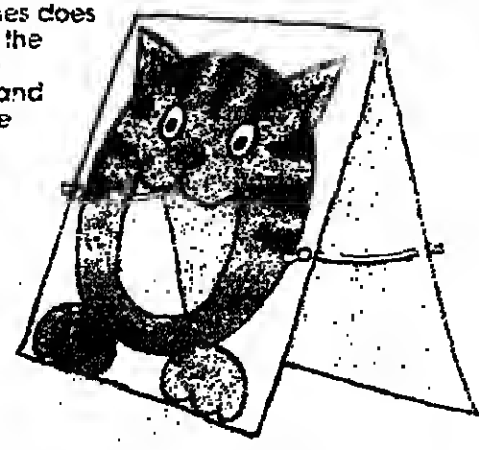
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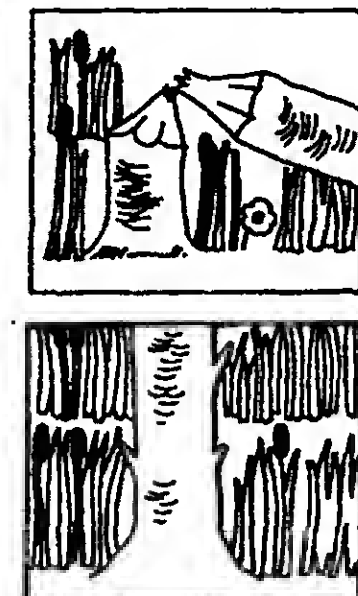
How many times does the cat catch the mouse? Make several mice and play the game with a friend.



Colouring time

The end of the story

Look carefully at the big pictures in each group. Then colour in the small picture which shows the most likely end to the story.



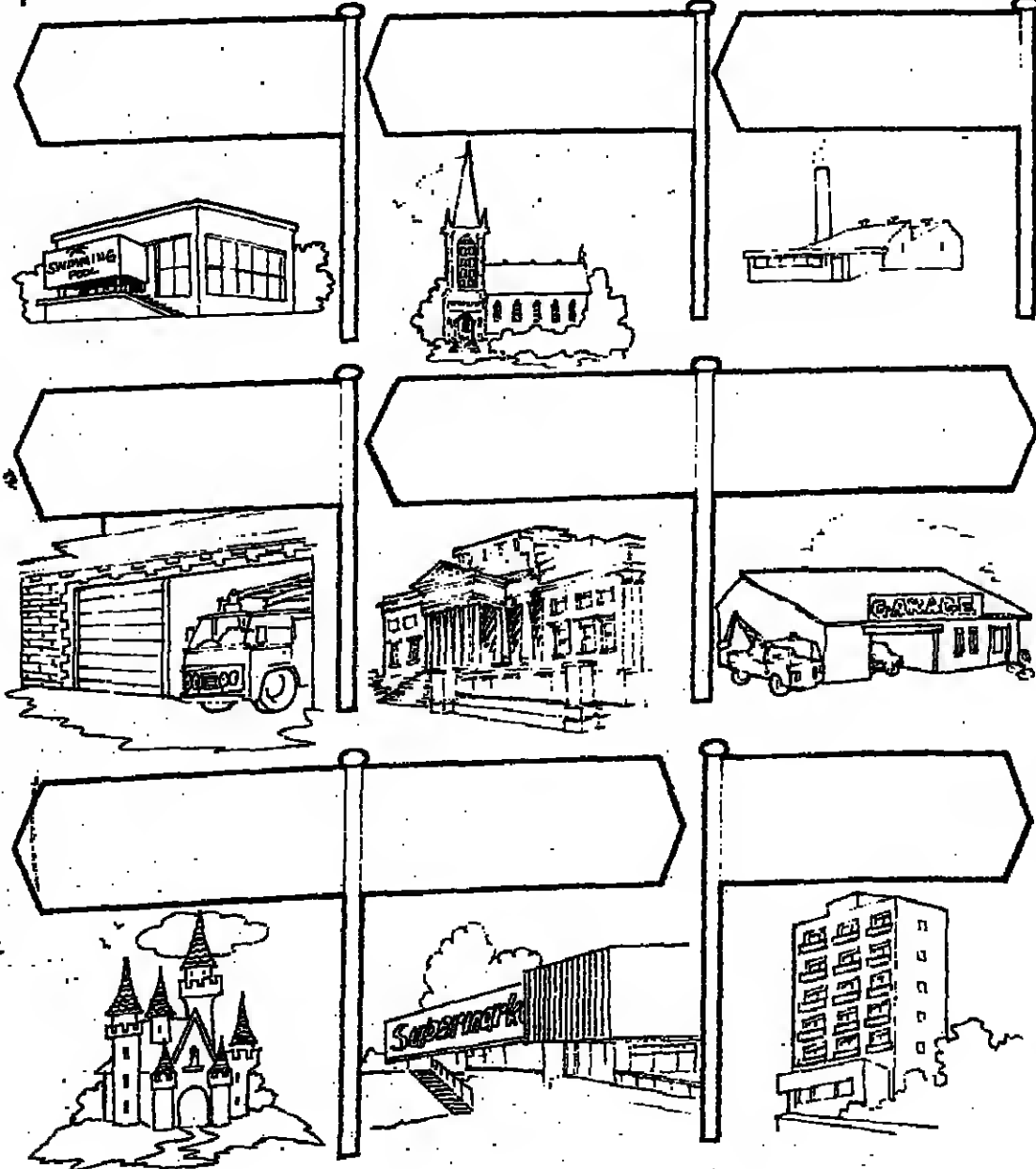
Cliff had just formed his own pop group, and his little brother said one day, "Cliff, I wish you and your group could be on the telly!" "You think we're good, eh?"

Just for laughs!
"Then I could turn you off!"
"Mum, can I go out and play?"
"What in those clothes?"
"No — in the park."

"Your mother's in an asylum, your father's in gaol, your brother's in Borsal and your sister's at university!"
"S'right."
"What is she studying?"
"She ain't. They're studyin' er!"

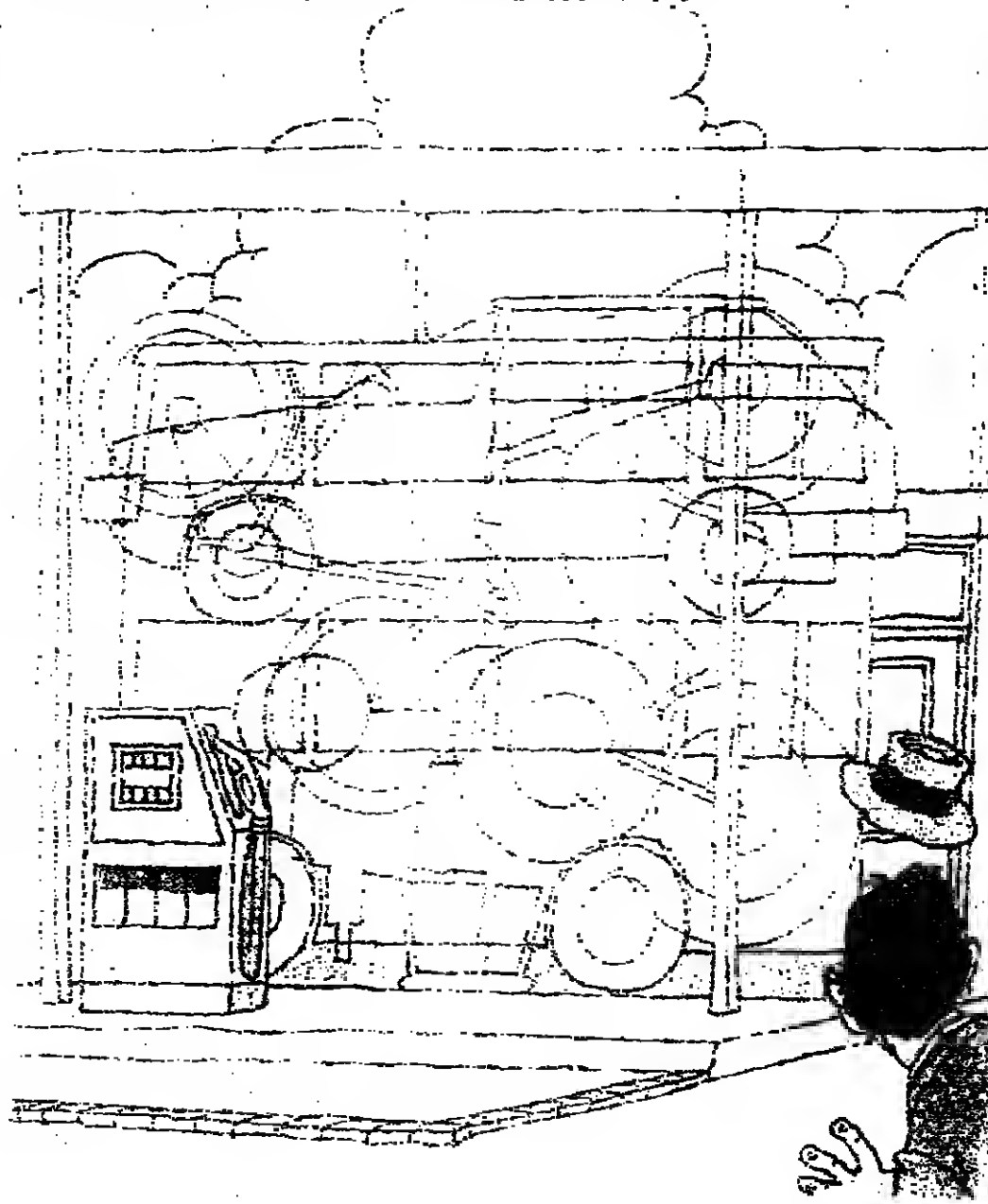
Buildings

Write the names of the buildings on the sign posts.



On the road

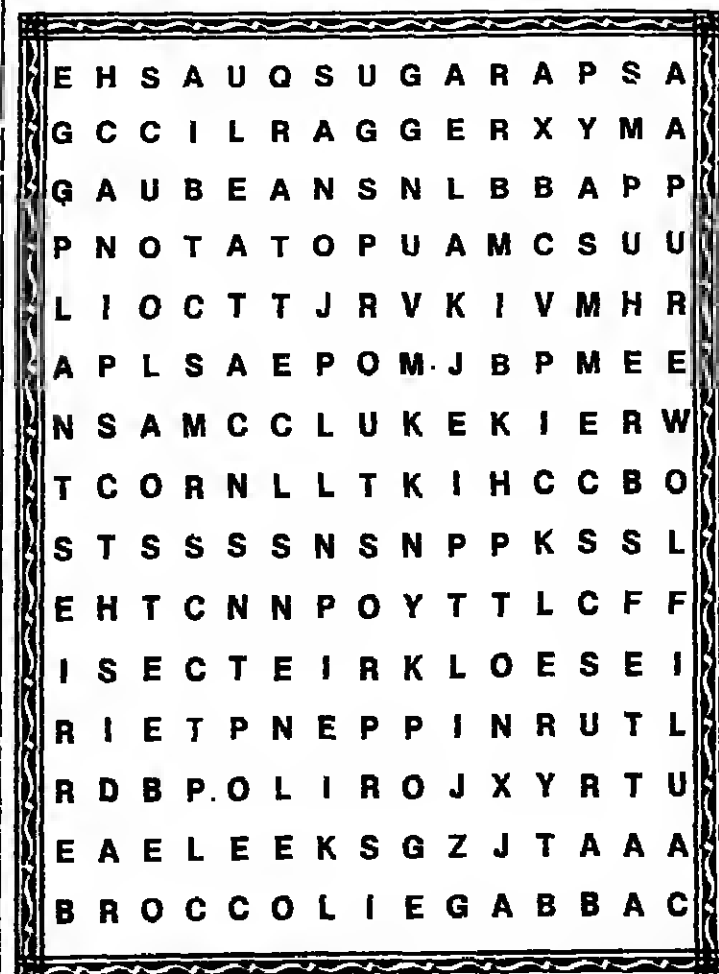
The picture below shows five different vehicles that you might see on the road. Unscramble the outlines to find out what each one is.



Wordsearch

UP AND UP

ASPARAGUS	CELERY	LEEK	PUMPKIN
BEANS	CORN	LETTUCE	RADISH
BEETS	EGGPLANT	ONION	SPINACH
BERRIES	GARLIC	PARSNIP	SPROUTS
BROCCOLI	GREENS	PEAS	SQUASH
CABBAGE	HERBS	PEPPER	TOMATO
CARROT	JACAMA	PICKLE	TURNIP
CAULIFLOWER	KALE	POTATO	



SPORTS BRIEFS

Porto triumph

LISBON, April 9. (Reuters) Porto extended their lead over second-placed Benfica in the Portuguese soccer First Division to four points when they scored a 2-1 away win over Tirsense yesterday.

Spanish appeal

ZURICH, April 9. (Reuters) The appeal by the Spanish Football Federation against a record 1.5 million Swiss francs (\$990,000) fine for contravening the rules on television transmissions will be heard here next month.

New tournament

BEIJING, April 9. (AP) The Asian Football Confederation said today the national teams from China, Japan, South Korea and North Korea will meet in Beijing this July to inaugurate a new biannual soccer tournament.

PSV toppled

AMSTERDAM, April 9. (Reuters) Ajax displaced PSV Eindhoven at the top of the Dutch soccer First Division yesterday with a 1-0 win at Groningen while PSV were held to a goalless draw by Volendam a day after saying they would part company with their coach.

Soccer violence

BOONN, April 9. (UPI) Weeks of mounting violence among soccer fans in East Germany culminated in incidents in the southern city of Jena, where fans threw signal ammunition and smashed windows, the East German news agency ADN said yesterday. The clashes occurred Saturday, the regular day for league play, at Jena, where the local team played FC Berlin. A policeman was hit in the face by signal ammunition fired by fans, apparently West Germans.

Africa tourney

RABAT, April 9. (Reuters) Titleholders Raja of Casablanca beat mighty Barroles of Liberia 2-0 (half time 1-0) in the first round of the Africa Champions' Cup at the Mohammed V stadium in Casablanca on Saturday night.

Mattar champion

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 9. (Reuters) Luiz Mattar of Brazil regained the Rio de Janeiro Open tennis title and gained revenge for a Davis Cup defeat when he beat Andrew Sznajder of Canada 6-4 in the final yesterday.

Sanchez wins

LISBON, April 9. (Reuters) Third seed Emilio Sanchez Viquez of Spain overcame unseeded Franco Davin of Argentina 6-3 6-1 to win the \$250,000 Estoril Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Cycling race

ROUBAIX, France, April 9. (AP) Belgium's Eddy Planckaert edged Canada's Steve Bauer in the final inches of the Paris-Roubaix Cycling Classic yesterday, winning the 263.5-kilometer (163.9-mile) race.

Racing engine

LONDON, April 9. (Reuters) Eyrion House racing and motor venture yesterday to develop a Formula One motor racing engine.

Soccer tourney

LISBON, April 9. (AP) Portugal will host the junior soccer World Championship tournament June 14-30 next year, the deputy president of the National Soccer Federation announced yesterday.

Ice hockey

LYON, France, April 9. (AP) Switzerland downed France 4-1 yesterday to clinch the title in the World B Ice Hockey Championship. The Swiss team finished its round-robin slate with 12 points and will advance to the A group next year. However, it will come a year too late for Switzerland, which is hosting the A group tournament later this month but did not qualify for it in 1989.

Oldham hold United to draw

Palace surprise Liverpool

LONDON, April 9. (Reuters) Crystal Palace, dismissed by many soccer fans as no-hopers, caused one of the biggest shocks in recent English FA Cup history yesterday when they beat holders Liverpool 4-3 in extra time to reach their first final.

Second Division Oldham completed a day of semifinal surprises when they took the lead against Manchester United after five minutes, went 2-1 behind, equalised and ended the tie after extra time with a richly-deserved 3-3 draw.

England captain Bryan Robson, starting his first senior match for United since a groin strain in December, rallied his team with an equaliser in the 29th minute.

The replay will be at Manchester City's Maine Road ground on Wednesday with the final played at Wembley on May 12. Oldham have already earned one trip to Wembley on April 29 to face holders Nottingham Forest in the League Cup final.

Palace thrashed 9-0 by Liverpool in the League earlier this season, twice came back from a goal down to finish 3-3 at the end of regulation time.

A goal in the 109th minute at Villa Park made sure of Palace's first Cup final appearance in the 85-year existence of the club.

Striker Alan Pardew, a bargain buy from Minor League side Yeovil, headed the winner from



Webb, scored one for United

close range after Andy Thorn had flicked on a corner from Andy Gray in the 109th minute. Welsh international striker

Ian Rush had put Liverpool, seeking a record fourth Cup final place in five years, 1-0 ahead when he scored his 23rd goal of

the season in the 14th minute. Soon afterwards he left the field with bruised ribs.

Palace, dangerously close to relegation in the First Division, forced their way back with a powerful goal by winger Mark Bright in the opening minute of the second half.

Gary O'Reilly put Palace 2-1 ahead after 70 minutes but two goals in two minutes for Liverpool seemed to have swung the game out of Palace's reach with only seven minutes remaining.

First, Steve McMahon thundered home an equaliser in the 81st and then Liverpool won a controversial penalty when John Pemberton tripped Steve Staunton. England striker John Barnes calmly put the holders 3-2 ahead from the spot.

But Palace refused to give up and equalised three minutes before time with a Gray header after a goalmouth scramble.

They almost stole the match in the dying seconds of normal time when Thorn thumped a header against the bar.

"We hung ourselves... football-wise we were better than them but they were better organised at set-pieces and that won them the game," Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish said.

He said the absence of defender Gary Gillespie, substituted at half time due to a groin strain, had not helped.

"It restores your faith in foot-

ball when the favourites don't always win," delighted Palace manager Steve Coppell said.

Oldham substitute Roger Palmer kept his team's hopes of a League and FA Cup double alive with a goal in the 107th minute after Manchester United made it 3-2 in the 92nd.

Like Liverpool, manager Alex Ferguson's expensive United had twice nosed in front only to have their fifth final in 14 years snatched away, at least temporarily, by their poorer city neighbours.

Earl Barrett had taken advantage of a mistake by goalkeeper Jim Leighton to clip home Oldham's first goal.

Robson, having scored for the first time in seven months, was substituted in the 71st minute by Danny Wallace and within seconds England international Neil Webb headed home.

It was Webb's first goal since he returned to United last week after an eight-month lay-off through injury.

But four minutes later Oldham's Ian Marshall hit his sixth goal of the season to take the match to extra time.

Ninety seconds into the first period, Wallace rushed on to a pass in the area and slid the ball inside the post but Palmer made sure nothing would wreck manager Joe Royle's 41st birthday with the equaliser to ensure the replay.



Navratilova overcame Capriati

Navratilova wins 150th singles title

Gilbert triumphs easily

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 9. (Reuters) Experience triumphed over youth yesterday as top seed Martina Navratilova defeated Jennifer Capriati 6-2 6-4 to claim her 150th career singles title at the \$500,000 Hilton Head clay court tennis tournament.

Navratilova, ranked second in the world, earned \$100,000 for her efforts and move to within seven titles of Chris Evert's record 157 by winning here for the third time.

But the top seed, 19 years older than her unseeded opponent, had to play her serve and volley best to stop the 14-year-old American, who is expected to come in at 25th in the world after completing the minimum number of events needed for a ranking.

"I was nervous and excited," admitted Navratilova. "I don't think she was intimidated. It was every bit as tough as I had expected."

Navratilova controlled the match with her strong serve and by attacking net early and often against Capriati, who had not had much experience against left-handers.

Navratilova successfully fought off the three break points she faced and broke Capriati in the fifth and seventh games of the first set and the third game of the second set.

But Capriati, twice a finalist in just three tournaments since she turned professional last month, came up with several spectacular winners and chased down shots that would have been well out of reach for most players.

Over the course of the match Capriati ripped numerous crosscourt backhand passes that demonstrated she will be a force to be reckoned with on the women's circuit.

"It was the greatest feeling of my life," said Capriati, who earned \$40,000. "Here I was playing a legend."

In Orlando, Fla., top-seed Brad Gilbert overwhelmed third-seeded South African Christo van Rensburg 6-2 6-1 in just 50 minutes yesterday to win the \$250,000 Orlando Tennis Classic.

Gilbert, a classic counter-puncher, controlled play from the outset and never allowed the 31st-ranked Van Rensburg into the match.

The American, ranked fifth in the world, broke Van Rensburg in the fifth and seventh games to take the first set.

In the second set, Gilbert allowed Van Rensburg to hold his serve just once — in the opening game — before running off six successive games with the help of three service breaks.

"I played really well," said Gilbert, who lost the final here last year to compatriot Andre Agassi by the same score.

"I played my best match of the tournament. I just match up well against him. I've beaten him five times," added the US Davis Cup member after claiming his 19th career title.

Gilbert earned \$32,400 for his victory, but appeared somewhat shocked to hear that Martina Navratilova had won \$100,000 for winning a women's clay court event earlier in the day.

Stevens may miss finals

LONDON, April 9. (Reuters) England defender Gary Stevens may miss next June's World Cup soccer finals in Italy after suffering a suspected broken leg yesterday.

Rangers right back Stevens limped off the field after only 15 minutes of a Scottish Premier Division match against Aberdeen.

Rangers team doctor Donald Cruikshank said Stevens had a suspected fracture of the fibula and would undergo an X-ray to see the extent of the damage.

"There must be some doubt as to whether he will be able to travel with the England party," Cruikshank said.

Stevens will be a big loss to the England World Cup squad as he has been manager Bobby Robson's first choice.

US triumph

ST. LOUIS, April 9. (Reuters) Striker Eric Wynalda scored two first half goals to lead the United States to a 4-1 victory over Iceland in a World Cup soccer warm-up match yesterday.

An attack-minded US squad, heading to the World Cup finals for the first time in 40 years, dominated play throughout.

Defender Steve Tuttle opened the scoring for the US with a header past Iceland goalkeeper Bjarni Sigurdsson in the 16th minute.

Wynalda gave the US a two-goal lead with a header to the far post in the 30th minute and seven minutes later made it 3-0 on a deflection off a free kick.

The far more aggressive US team, which outshot Iceland 17-8, added to their commanding 3-0 halftime lead when Bruce Murray scored on a header off a well-timed cross.



The Gulf players with the W. German team

Gulf rugby team returns home

THE Arabian Gulf rugby team returned home after taking part in the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Bank Sevens last week. The tournament was won by Fiji after they defeated New Zealand 22-10 in one of the most dramatic finals seen in Hong Kong's National Stadium.

How much New Zealand's defeat can be attributed to the game they had to play against the Arabian Gulf the previous day is hard to determine but the Gulf side certainly gave their all against the current world champions.

In fact the game almost had the most dramatic of starts when Steve Hill of Kuwait won the kick off ball from Zinzan Brooke, the ball was kicked on and knocked on just before the New Zealand line. The New Zealanders paid the Gulf the compliment of fielding their strongest team which included names as Zinzan Brooke, John Schuster, Terry Wright and Graeme Bachup.

Whilst the Gulf were eventually overcome they did manage to come close to scoring on three occasions, once scoring a try through Hill which was disallowed only due to the incompetence of the referee and much to the dissatisfaction of the crowd.

The second game saw the Gulf lose to South Korea who had too much pace. Thus Sunday saw the Gulf with a tough draw against Sri Lanka in the quarterfinal of the Bowl competition. In this game the Gulf lived up to their

potential and did not allow the Sri Lankans time to play their normal expansive game. Tries through Roger John, Chris King and Chris Matthews saw the Gulf win 24-0.

Before the semifinal there was the traditional march past which saw the Gulf sporting Arab headgear as were hundreds of their supporters in the capacity crowd of 28,000.

The semifinal saw the Gulf against a very strong team from West Germany. The Germans took a 12-0 lead but the Gulf struck back to bring the scores to 12-6 at half time. Unfortunately the Gulf lost fly half Roger John at the beginning of the second

half with a knee injury, and the speed and power of the Germans finally overcame the Gulf Challenge.

Winning only one of four matches may not sound a great record but the victory over Sri Lanka showed that the Arabian Gulf has the ability to compete well in this world class tournament. The Gulf side proved great ambassadors for rugby in the Middle East and were certainly the crowd's favourites.

Arabian Gulf squad: Steve Hill (Kuwait), Andy Stevens (Qatar), Roger John (Bahrain), Chris King, Paul Trayburn, Jonn Wright, Trevor White (Dubai).



The Arabian Gulf squad

Real rout Celta to extend lead

MADRID, April 9. (Reuters) Real Madrid virtually sealed their fifth successive Spanish First Division soccer title yesterday when they beat Celta Vigo 3-0 in a match suspended by a hailstorm and stretched their League lead to 10 points.

City rivals Atletico Madrid snatched a point from a goalless draw at Real Sociedad but they have only a mathematical chance of denying the champions, with five matches to come.

Even if Atletico won all their remaining matches, Real Madrid would need to lose their last five by improbably high margins to be overhauled on goal difference.

Yesterday's three goals hoisted Real to within two goals of the record tally for the season of 96, established by arch-rivals Barcelona in 1959.

Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium pitched turned white in a sudden hailstorm three minutes after the

kick-off, forcing the referee to suspend play for half an hour.

Barcelona beat Valencia 2-1 to move into third place, overtaking Valencia in the table on goal difference. Both trail Atletico by one point.

The win cost Barcelona dear as their international goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta and defender Luis Lopez Rekarte earned one-match suspensions after receiving bookings.

The Catalans, still stirred after last Thursday's 2-0 victory over Real Madrid in the Spanish Cup final, trailed 1-0 after a 17th-minute penalty by Bulgarian Luboslav Penev following a handling offence by Miguel Soler.

They recovered in the second half to go ahead with two goals by substitute striker Ernesto Valverde, who has scored four goals in Barcelona's last two League games and earned them four points.

Alen and Kivimaki to lead off Safari Rally

FINLAND's Markku Alen will start first in the 1990 Marlboro Safari Rally which begins in Nairobi on Wednesday. The Subaru Legacy of Alen and co-driver Kiki Kivimaki was the first car out of the drum at the unique ceremonial drive for top starting positions which was held in the Kenyan capital.

After some 15 years competing for the Italian Fiat Lancia works team, the two Finns have moved to Subaru this season. The Safari will mark not only their debut for the team but also the debut of the Legacy in the World Championship arena.

The car which the pair will drive in Kenya is the five-speed version developed by the Japanese division of the team. A six-speed version, developed in Europe, is expected to make its debut later in the year, with Alen again at the helm.

"We have been testing, testing very hard," commented Alen. "We first came to Kenya last December to do as much high speed testing as

possible but then we blew an engine. We came back in January for more tests, then again in March. The car has very good suspension. Very strong. In fact, the car is stronger than me! I am much happier now that I have left-hand drive car. And the power steering makes the cornering so much better. Kiki and I are very positive — but the weather! Incredible rain...."

The torrential storms, which have been causing floods throughout Kenya in the past month, are a constant topic of conversation for the competitors.

"It is literally raining everywhere. The roads are in an unbelievable state. I have never seen the Taita Hills so bad," commented Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard, three-time winner of the Safari in 1977, 1984 and 1986. "In 1977, they called the event the wettest ever — I think this year could be even worse!"

Waldegard and co-driver Fred Gallagher will start at number three in their Toyota Celica GT4, behind the Toyota Celica GT4, behind the Lancia Delta Integrale of reigning World Champions and Safari vic-

tors for the past two years, Miki Biasion and Tiziano Siviero.

"This is the first time that we are using the Celica on the Safari and we have been testing almost non-stop in Kenya since I finished Paris-Dakar in January. The car is fantastic over the rough — so much better than the Supra. We have had some problems for sure, who hasn't? But I think the car is a potential winner and I intend to beat Sheikh Misha's record of five wins!"

The tropical conditions have certainly been an eye-opener for Sweden's Mikael Ericsson, who starts at number six in the second Toyota Celica GT4. "This is my first Safari. I had heard so much about it, especially from Claes, my co-driver who has already completed here nine times, but I wasn't really sure what to expect."

"Well, it is much, much rougher than I had imagined. I think I expected it to be like Acropolis or at least that there would be wide roads, so that you could drive round the deep pot holes. But you have to drive through them! It is so rough, it

really hurts, even if you are down to second gear...."

"I went out driving with Bjorn for one day and that was incredibly helpful for me. I learned a lot."

"You need a lot of luck on this event. It's not really all about super driving skills but intelligent driving. You need to have your brain switched on all the time that is for sure! "We spent one whole week driving in and out of deep mud holes to see what would happen to the engine. I would drive straight in to stall the car, get covered in mud from head to foot, get towed out — then drive right back in again! That was something different...."

"I have never seen rain like this. Some of our mechanics were out at Suswa the other night and they told me that the water was waist deep. I have been in Kenya for a whole month so I am going home to Sweden for a week's break. I can quite believe that the conditions will be totally different again when we come back!"

The announcement that the Toyota Team would enter a third



Waldegard (right) with Ericsson (centre)



Ericsson in action during practice.

SPORTS

England chase 356 runs for victory

W. Indies strike three vital blows

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 9, (Reuters): West Indian pacemen Ian Bishop and Curtly Ambrose struck three vital blows yesterday to put their side in charge of the fourth cricket Test against England.

At the close of the fourth day England, needing 356 to win, were 15 for three in their second innings. England lead the five-Test series 1-0.

England lost three wickets in eight overs after Viv Richards had declared the West Indies' second innings closed at 267 for eight with opener Desmond Haynes scoring 109.

The tourists made the worst possible start when Wayne Larkins was caught behind off Bishop in the first over for his second duck of the match.

Then in the day's penultimate over, Roh Bailey was given out caught behind off Ambrose for six and nightwatchman Gladstone Small was out lbw second ball for nought.

Television replays appeared to indicate Bailey's deflection had come off his thigh pad and the England batsman was clearly dismayed at the decision.

A second nightwatchman, Jack Russell, came in and survived an over from Malcolm Marshall before bad light ended play with 16 overs still remaining.

England had forced the West Indies to declare considerably later than Viv Richards would have wanted his direct imitation of their opponents' go-slow tactics in the Third Test.



Haynes scored his 131st Test ton

They bowled only 62.2 overs in five and three-quarter hours and although the West Indies scored at almost four per over Richards did not feel it was safe to declare any earlier.

England also bowled a tidy line and length after 61 runs had been scored in the first hour when Devon Malcolm, not learning

the lesson of the first innings, had bowled too short and had gone for 24 in 20 balls before he was taken out of the attack until just before tea.

He bowled only 10 overs in the innings, conceding 48 in what has been an unhappy Test match for him.

But when Richie Richardson

was lbw to Phil DeFreitas for 39, which included two pulled fours and a six off Malcolm, a brake was applied on the scoring.

Haynes reached his 50 from only 62 balls but was much slower thereafter, reaching his 131st Test hundred from 170 balls with 10 fours.

Logie, who made 48, was lbw to DeFreitas and soon afterwards the Barbadian-born Small, by dismissing Marshall and Ezra Moseley in successive deliveries, had accounted for all four Bajans in the West Indies' side. Marshall drove to long-on and Moseley was clean bowled.

Ambrose was caught at wide long-on off the persevering DeFreitas in the following over before a further 28 were scored by Dujon and Bishop.

Small, with four for 74 from 20 overs, finished with eight wickets in the match while DeFreitas deservedly picked up three for 69 from 22 overs.

● Injured England cricket captain Graham Gooch was pessimistic yesterday about his chances of playing in the fifth and final Test against West Indies.

Gooch, who broke the little finger on his left hand in the second innings of the drawn third Test, will learn tomorrow if the

two metal pins inserted after the blow by Ezra Moseley will be removed.

"I think the surgeon is recommending the pins are not taken out so it's going to be very difficult for me to play in Antigua," Gooch said yesterday.

"It feels quite good and there is no real pain, but if I get hit again it could put me back a month. I'm hoping to be fit for the start of the English season."

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 446 (C. Best 164, V. Richards 70)

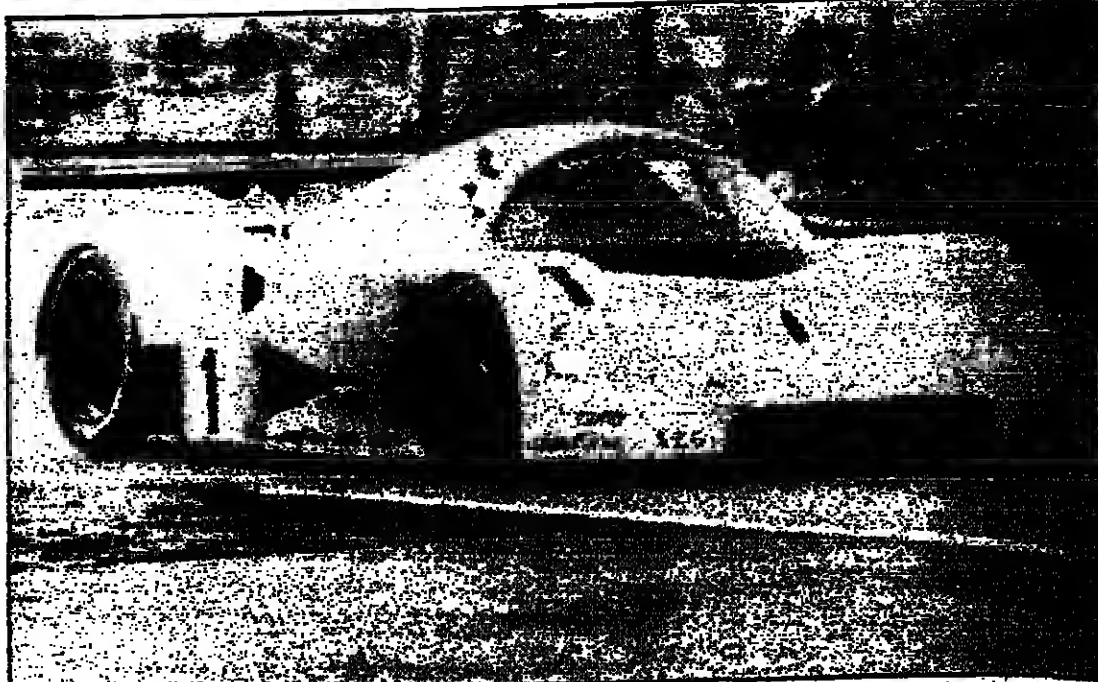
ENGLAND first innings 358 (A. Lamb 119, R. Smith 82, I. Bishop 40 for 70)

WEST INDIES second innings (overnight 19-1)

G. Greenidge lbw b Small 3
D. Haynes c Malcolm b Small 109
R. Richardson lbw b DeFreitas 39
V. Richards c Small b Capel 12
G. Logie lbw b DeFreitas 48
E. Moseley b Small 5
M. Marshall c Smith b Small 7
J. Dujon not out 15
C. Ambrose c Capel b DeFreitas 1
I. Bishop not out 11
Extras (lb-12 w-1 nb-4) 17
Total (for eight wickets) 267

Fall of wickets: 1-13 2-83 3-109 4-223 5-228 6-238 7-238 8-238
Bowling: Malcolm 10-0-46-6, Small 20-1-74-4, DeFreitas 22-2-69-3, Capel 16-1-66-1

ENGLAND second innings
A. Stewart not out 4
W. Larkins c Dujon b Ambrose 0
G. Small lbw b Ambrose 0
R. Bailey c Dujon b Ambrose 6
J. Russell not out 2
Extras (lb-2) 2
Total (for three wickets) 15
Fall of wickets: 1-12 103-10
Bowling (to date): Bishop 4-1-7-1, Ambrose 4-2-6-2, Marshall 1-1-0-0.



The Mercedes of Schlesser and Baldi on its way to victory (Reuters wirephoto)

Mercedes dominate opener

SUZUKA, Japan, April 9, (Reuters): World sports car champions Jean-Louis Schlesser of France and Italian Mauro Baldi powered their Mercedes to victory in the opening round of the season yesterday despite being troubled throughout by a fuel leak.

Mercedes, who dominated last year's championship with seven wins in the eight races, also took second place through West German Jochen Mass and Karl Wendlinger of Austria but it was a day of despair for main rivals Jaguar.

Neither of their cars completed the three-hour race. Jan Lammers of the Netherlands and Andy Wallace of Britain retired shortly after the halfway mark and the car of Briton Martin Brundle and Frenchman Alain Ferte broke down five laps from the finish.

The defending champions, who completed the 480 kms, 82-lap race in two hours 43 minutes 45.420 seconds, took the lead in the 57th lap when they passed the Mercedes of Mass and Wendlinger.

The result confirmed Mercedes strength in depth. The team had to abandon plans to use their new C11 car after it was damaged in a crash during practice on Saturday.

Japan's Masahiro Hasemi and Sweden's Anders Olsson in a Nissan battled to finish third one lap behind the winners.



Schlesser splashes champagne on the crowd after his victory (Reuters wirephoto)

Cavaliers overcome Pistons

RICHFIELD, Ohio, April 9, (AP): John Williams scored a career-high 33 points and Mark Price sank two free throws with 12.3 seconds left as Cleveland beat the Detroit Pistons 100-97 yesterday, keeping the Cavaliers in sole possession of the final Eastern Conference playoff berth.

The victory was the Cavaliers' first in the last eight games against Detroit, which has lost six of its last nine overall and five of six on the road. Cleveland leads Atlanta by one game for the eighth playoff berth.

The Pistons are 3-4 since starting guard Joe Dumars sustained a broken left hand. Cleveland won despite playing without starting forward Larry Nance, out for the second straight game with a sprained left ankle.

Rockets 146, Magic 123
Sleepy Floyd scored a season-high 32 points and Houston scorched Orlando for 78 first-half points and handed the Magic their ninth consecutive loss.

The victory pulled the Rockets within one game of Seattle in the race for the final playoff berth in the Western Conference. Orlando, which trailed by as many as 36 points, has lost 25 of its last 27 games.

The Magic, yielding a league-high 119 points per game, was led by Nick Anderson's 21 points.

Floyd, who had 13 assists, scored 25 points in the first half when Houston built a 78-58 half-time lead on 65 percent shooting from the field. The Rockets tacked on 41 points in the third quarter and led 128-92 in the fourth period.

Hornets 110, Warriors 109
Kelly Tripucka's free throw with seven minutes to go sealed a one-point victory over Golden State as the Hornets recorded the second-year franchise's first three-game winning streak.

Charlotte has won eight of its last 13 games and no longer has the worst record in the NBA, while the loss dropped the Warriors 2 1-2 games behind Seattle for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Tripucka, who scored 17 points, caught an inbound pass with 1.8 seconds remaining and was fouled by Rod Higgins while shooting a 18-foot jumper from the corner. Tripucka hit the first free throw, then missed the second.

Armon Gilliam had 19 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Hornets. Terry Teague had 23 points and Mitch Richmond 22 for Golden State.

Results
Cleveland 100 Detroit 97
Charlotte 110 Golden State 109
Houston 146 Orlando 123
Indiana 99 New York 97
L.A. Lakers 116 Denver 109
New Jersey 102 Miami 101
Portland 112 San Antonio 105

Rainey wins Grand Prix

MONTEREY, Calif., April 9, (Reuters): American Yamaha rider Wayne Rainey survived a crash-marred US Grand Prix motorcycle race yesterday to score his second victory in as many races this year.

Rainey, who won the season opener in Japan, completed the 35-lap, 76.86-mile (123.69-km) race at the Laguna Seca Raceway in 50 minutes 55.379 seconds to take a commanding lead in the world championship hunt with 40 points.

Pierfrancesco Chili of Italy, who inherited third place on his Honda as leaders fell out of the race, stood second in the championship standings with 24 points.

Australian Michael Doohan finished the race second on his Honda in 51:25.765, 29 seconds ahead of Chili.

Rainey's three principal rivals all suffered crashes.

Australian Honda rider Wayne Gardner went out early at the same corner where he crashed and broke an ankle last year.

"It was just a stupid mistake," said Gardner, who was not seriously hurt.

American Kevin Schwantz crashed his Suzuki 10

laps from the finish after staging a race-long duel with Rainey and retired with an injury to his left wrist.

Defending world champion Eddie Lawson of the US broke his right heel in a crash during Friday's qualifying and did not race.

The day's most serious injury was to Australian Kevin Magee, whose fifth-lap crash forced the race to be restarted.

Magee was later reported to be in critical but stable condition last night following successful surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain.

Magee lost control of his Suzuki coming out of the sixth turn—a high-speed left turn just before a steep climb—and was sent flying head first into the dirt track side.

Magee, 27, lay motionless beside the track, but was reported conscious when airlifted by helicopter to the San Jose Medical Centre 55 miles (88 km) from the Monterey, California race course.

Following the two-hour operation Magee was moved to the hospital's intensive care unit where he will be monitored closely for the next 48 hours, the family said in a statement.

Animal rights campaigners express outrage

LONDON, April 9, (Reuters): Animal rights campaigners have called for a public inquiry after seven horses were killed at the Aintree Grand National meeting, including two in Saturday's big race won by 16-1 chance Mr Frisk.

The death of Roll-a-Joint and Hungary Hur brought the Grand National fatality toll since 1946 to 26, eight of them at Becher's

Brook.

John Robins, organising secretary of Animal Concern has written to British Home Secretary (Interior Minister) David Waddington expressing outrage at the "carnage," and requesting a public inquiry.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) is also seeking a meeting with the Jockey Club, the

sports ruling body in Britain.

Robins said: "We have a national event that is so well publicised but the reality is that it is killing animals for the sake of sport and profit."

After the deaths of two horses which fell at Becher's Brook in 1989, the obstacle was made safer this year by levelling the landing side and making the water in the ditch much shallower.

Faldo beats Floyd in playoff to win Masters again

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 9, (Reuters): Nick Faldo overcame a first-hole double bogey to catch front-runner Raymond Floyd on the last hole yesterday and went on to win his second straight Masters tournament in a sudden-death playoff.

Faldo joined Jack Nicklaus as the only players ever to repeat as Masters champion and the Briton achieved his success just as he had last year—on the 11th green in the second hole of sudden death.

A brave charge down Augusta National's demanding back nine allowed Faldo to overcome an awful start and take full advantage of opportunity when Floyd left him an opening.

Faldo, who tied Floyd when the American bogeyed his 71st hole of regulation, scrambled for par from a bunker on the first playoff hole as Floyd left a 15-foot birdie putt short.

When the 47-year-old Floyd pulled his second shot into the water on the second playoff hole, Faldo was suddenly in the driver's seat.

On two, Faldo two-putted the 11th from 25 feet, the same distance he covered with one putt last year to beat Scott Hoch with a sudden-death birdie for his first Masters triumph.

"I'm a little more emotional for this one than first one," Faldo said as he was awarded



Faldo raises his arms in victory before receiving a hug from his wife (Reuters wirephoto)

his second Green Jacket. "I really feel I've made history."

After two successive Masters triumphs on the same hole, the 11th at Augusta National will always be associated with Faldo.

"I'd like to take it back home with me, piece by piece," he said.



Faldo birdied 13, 15 and 16 for a 69 that put him in position to take advantage of Floyd's lapse at 17.

Floyd, who at age 43 became the oldest US Open champion in 1986, was trying to supplant Nicklaus as the oldest Masters champion. The Golden Bear was 46 when he won his last of

six titles in 1986.

"It would have meant so much to me you could not imagine," Floyd said. "To be the oldest winner and to win a Major at my age."

"I competed marvellously all week but I did play today the way you need to play to win."

Sharing third place, five shots

back at five-under-par 283, were John Huston and Lanny Wadkins, who fired a 68 to move up from one-under-par.

Fred Couples shot 69 to finish at 284 for fifth place.

Nicklaus, who repeated as Masters champion in 1966, began the day five shots back but his three birdies and five bogeys dropped him to sixth place, three-under-par for the tournament.

Faldo caught a fairway bunker with his first drive of the day and after taking three putts to finish the hole found himself trailing Floyd by five shots.

From there, the 32-year-old Faldo fought his way back. Birdies at holes 2, 7 and 9 pulled him within two before a bogey at 10 dropped him to three shots back.

Then came his final surge, which began at the par-5 13th, the last hole of Amen Corner, where he narrowly missed an eagle putt before posting a birdie.

Another birdie at the par-5 15th was followed by a brilliant 20-foot birdie putt at the par-3 16th that brought him within one stroke of Floyd for the first time.

Floyd, who attacked the course rather than nurse his two-shot lead going into the final round, had a scrambling time and relied on his short

game to bail him out of danger.

He balanced a bogey at the 5th with a birdie at number 8 and when he birdied 12 with a bold downhill putt from off the fringe, Floyd looked like a winner as his lead briefly reached four strokes.

But Floyd ran out of magic in the face of Faldo's determined charge.

At the 17th his approach left him 70 feet from the cup and on the other side of a small hill. His putt rolled about eight feet past the hole and he slid by again to the right coming back to three putts for bogey.

That hole provided another echo from Faldo's 1989 triumph when a bogey by Hoch at 17 opened the door for the Briton to tie in regulation.

Floyd looked as though he might lose in regulation when he hit his drive at 18 into a fairway bunker and then put his second shot into greenside sand.

Needing a par to tie, Floyd blasted out beautifully and saved par to force the playoff.

The American looked ready to win on the first sudden death hole when he put his approach to within 15 feet, while Faldo's ball rested in a bunker.

But Floyd left his uphill birdie putt short and Faldo got up and down safely to send the playoff to his favourite place—the 11th at Augusta.

Swedes make perfect start

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, April 9, (Reuters): Sweden made a flying start to their bid for a ninth European men's team table tennis title yesterday, beating Austria 5-0 despite resting world champion Jan-Ove Waldner.

Despite their status as world title-holders, the Swedes had been worried about their opening match because of the presence of two strong Chinese players, Ding Yi and Qian Qianli, in the Austrian team.

But the defending champions dropped only two games—both to Ding—in a swift victory which must have made their other Group B rivals tremble.

"The others know we must be a very strong team to beat Austria and their two Chinese 5-0 without Waldner," delighted coach Glenn Osth said.

Waldner, whose form has been patchy since he beat compatriot Jorgen Persson for the world crown in Dortmund a year ago, was rested because of a slight hand injury but he was not expected to be out of action for long.

Ding, 31, took a game off Olympic bronze medalist Erik Lindh and one off reigning European singles champion Mikael Appelgren. But Appelgren slumped back in the deciding game to finish a 12-21 25-23 21-6 winner.

England, the silver medalists at the 1988 European championships, also dropped only two games in winning their opening round-robin match against the Netherlands 5-0 in Group A.

Sprint star

LONDON, April 9, (AP): American sprint star Carl Lewis is considering multi-million dollar sums of a Canadian. But Lewis, according to a British news report yesterday, The Independent Mail on Sunday said Lewis, who replaced Johnson as Olympic champion in Seoul after the Canadian 100 metre winner was banned for drugs abuse, would decide within the next few weeks whether they would make sense.

Sauers triumphs
HATTIESBURG, Miss., April 9, (Reuters): Gene Sauers won the \$300,000 Hattiesburg Classic golf tournament by two strokes yesterday after firing his second consecutive two-under-par 68 for a 12-under 268 total. Jack Ferez carded a final round three-under-par 67 to finish at 278 total to win by two strokes from Britons Richard Boxall and Chris Williams.

Nascar race
BRISTOL, Tennessee, April 9, (AP): Davey Allison beat Mark Martin in a photo finish yesterday in the Valleydale 500 Nascar race at Bristol International Raceway.

Two-shot victory
VALENCIA, Spain, April 9, (Reuters): Fiji's Vijay Singh won the El Bosque Open golf tournament by two strokes yesterday then paid tribute to his pregnant wife who had accompanied him throughout the four rounds. Singh shot a three-under-par 69 in the final round for a 278 total to win by two strokes from Britons Richard Boxall and Chris Williams.

Monaghan wins
POWAY, Calif., April 9, (Reuters): Kris Monaghan's dream came true yesterday when she shot a final round four-under-par 67 to win the \$300,000 LPGA tournament, her first victory on the US Women's Golf Tour. "This is what I have dreamed about my whole life," said Monaghan after finishing at eight-under-par 276, two strokes ahead of Cathy Gerring.

Bridge
RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:
1st N. Akel & L. Muthwaite
2nd D. Maternity & B. Moussell
3rd M. Maynard & N. Talbot
Results of the Maharashtra Mandal annual Individual Bridge Tournament played on Friday:
1st Shyam Gokhale
2nd Jayant Sapre
3rd Jayant Bhargava
4th Vivek Kethkar
5th Anju Javahire